

ASTON VILLA & DUNDEE UTD. TEAM GROUPS

SHOOT!

22p

27th SEPTEMBER,
1980

THIJSSEN and MUHREN
Double Dutch crosstalk

**KEEGAN V
LIVERPOOL**

**The big
hit men**
**SPURS'
FORGOTTEN
STAR**

SHOOT! view!

WATFORD 7, Southampton 1. The result that shocked football followers all over the country and sent the Second Division club blazing into the Third Round of the League Cup.

Lawrie McMenemy, Saints' manager, shouldered the result as the worst display by any team he had managed.

But more important, the result reflects a determined effort by the majority of League clubs to pay less heed to caution in the search of goals and the generation of entertainment.

Three days before Southampton's humiliation at Vicarage Road, 173 goals were blasted past goalkeepers in England and Scotland.

Ian Wallace scored two of five goals Nottingham Forest swept into Stoke City's net. Poor Roger Hansbury, Norwich City's goalkeeper, had to pick the ball out of his net four times in the East Anglian club's defeat by Liverpool.

Alan Brazil, John Wark, Terry Butcher and Paul Mariner flashed four goals into Everton's net, and Celtic and Motherwell both managed to score six goals apiece in the Scottish League Cup Second Round second-leg.

The emphasis is shifting from negative "they shall not pass" defence to more progressive attacking formations in a genuine attempt to win back support on the terraces.

Tottenham's attitude reflects the change. No one on the coaching side at White Hart Lane would suggest that their defence this season compares with the one that clinched the double 20 years ago. But manager Keith Burkinshaw is happy in the knowledge that if his rearguard is not absolutely watertight, his fluent attack, masterminded by Osvaldo Ardiles and Glenn Hoddle, is capable of setting up more goals than the First Division club concedes.

Allowing Crystal Palace to score three goals against them in mid-August was not clever, but few Spurs fans were worrying when Garth Crooks (2), Hoddle, and Steve Archibald gave Tottenham two First Division points.

Middlesbrough are a classic example of a team once condemned for adopting dull, negative tactics who have seen the light under the shrewd direction of John Neal to settle for a more attractive, crowd-pulling style.

Ten goals in the first six games, three of them away from home, testify to Middlesbrough's attitude these days.

Two major advertising agencies have researched the cause of falling attendances. Style of play on the pitch is a major reason for fans not bothering to attend matches, particularly among those over 40 who, rightly or wrongly, believe the game is not as attractive as it was.

Systems have taken over from individual flair in the past ten years. Many managers have been happier with solid, dependable players than more enterprising, but less consistent performers.

Denis Law, George Best and Bobby Charlton would send fans racing through the turnstiles whenever Manchester United were in town. Other clubs had crowd-pulling players.

Unfortunately, coaches and managers have tried to standardise players, making them machine-like to the detriment of long-suffering fans.

Ardiles, renowned throughout the world for quality football, has got the message when he says that Tottenham's shortcomings last season were a shortage of goals.

"I only scored five times, which is not good enough for a midfield player in English football."

Ardiles is one of many players attempting to bring some pleasure back to football.

With the players, managers and coaches working hard to take the fear out of losing in a quest for more entertainment, football will survive its problems and woo back the supporters.

'Keegan's better than ever'

KEVIN Keegan v. Liverpool! That's the line some sections of the media are taking in their previews to the match at The Dell on Saturday, when Southampton's sensational close-season signing from Hamburger SV lines up against us for the first time in the League.

It's understandable because I imagine most fans are intrigued by the prospect of my former Liverpool team-mate battling to defeat the team in which he starred for seven glorious years.

But we Liverpool players don't place a priority on playing against Kevin in particular. We shan't be making any special plans, such as assigning a marker to him or adopting a specially-devised plan.

But we do regard Kevin as being partly responsible for Southampton's emergence this season as serious Championship contenders. His presence has inspired the likes of Charlie George — looking as sharp and deadly as in his Arsenal days — and Mike Channon, who has taken on a new lease of life.

Since parting company with us at Anfield in 1977, Kevin is now an even better player, through his experience of the rigid man-for-man marking the West German Bundesliga is renowned for.

He has perfected the art of gaining that extra half-yard needed to



Ray Clemence
TALKING
SOCCER



'GIVE ME TIME'

BY signing Ray McHale for £25,000 in an exchange deal with Andy Rollings during the summer, Alan Mullery allowed the 29-year-old ex-Swindon captain to achieve two of his ambitions at a late stage in his career.

A close friendship with former Brighton defender Ken Tiler, which started when both players signed for Chesterfield on the same day, gave McHale the urge to join a "good club."

"While I secretly hoped Brighton would come in for me, I had to be realistic at my age which is why the best I could hope for before the offer came was to make the Second Division with Swindon. They're a good side and I'm sure

they'll do well in a higher Division.

"I was happy there and still had two years of a four-year contract to run, but at my stage of life I just couldn't turn down the chance of playing in the First Division.

"Different players tell me different things about it, which is why I think it'll be a question of time which decides whether I can adjust myself to it. But I'm more than grateful to have got the chance and am determined to give it all I've got," McHale added.

As fate would have it McHale's baptism to the top flight was not as tough as it might have been. Because of Swindon's League Cup exploits last season he had already played two games against

slip past a marker while keeping firm control of the ball.

No longer does he need a tall player alongside him, as he did at Liverpool with John Toshack to knock the ball down to him or make space.

Through his playing for England, we've been able to watch his graduation into the ranks of truly world-class players, so we're all aware of his entire box of tricks.

Where he did spring a surprise was in choosing to join Southampton, one of the less fashionable clubs, away from any of the soccer strongholds. There's no secret we would have welcomed him back to Anfield with open arms, but we knew he wouldn't consider returning to Merseyside where he'd always be under great pressure to improve on, or at least repeat, his tremendous achievements in the red of Liverpool F.C.

Southampton presented Kevin with a stimulating new challenge while at the same time providing him with an environment that allows him to relax with his wife Jean and baby daughter Laura-Jane.

Buddies

Kevin is a country boy at heart — when with Liverpool he lived around 50 miles away from Merseyside, in the North Wales village of Mold — and he has found a comparable place in Hampshire, near one of his closest buddies Mike Channon.

Kevin has also been very shrewd in signing for Lawrie McMenemy, a manager I rate highly for his integrity and football acumen, and who would top my list of men I'd be pleased to play football for should I ever leave Liverpool.

Any reservations I had about Kevin's effect on a team with few acknowledged stars and many youngsters who might have become overawed at playing alongside a superstar who has accomplished so much, were dispelled by Southampton's great start to the season.

Providing he can clear up his hamstring problem — which caused him to miss Southampton's second-leg of the Second Round of the League Cup when they crashed out to Watford by a staggering 7-1 — I'm sure he'll help keep Saints in the



Keegan scores for Hamburger against Liverpool shortly after leaving Anfield.

race for the Championship.

I know from playing with him for Liverpool and England what a difference he makes to a side with his drive and breathtaking skills.

We've shared so many experiences. Both of us were bought from Scunthorpe, although I had left The Irons before he joined them, were called up for England at the same time.

We were in Liverpool teams that won Championships, one F.A. Cup winner's medal, two U.E.F.A. Cup medals and the ultimate for a club player — the European Cup in 1977 before Kevin emigrated to West Germany to help himself to more honours with Hamburger SV.

I still regard Kevin's performance against Borussia Moenchengladbach as the finest of his career. On that night in Rome he scintillated, giving his marker, Berti Vogts, a nightmarish time until the little blond German's despairing tackle

conceded the penalty which presented us with our third goal.

Kevin ended his Liverpool career on the highest possible note, and earned a place amongst the all-time Anfield greats.

Many other players have been blessed with the same amount of skill as Kevin, but have lacked his application and strength of character.

When I first met him, at a reception at the Savoy, London, after he had watched us from the Wembley stand lose the 1971 F.A. Cup Final to Arsenal after extra-time by 2-1, I little suspected the potential of the bright-eyed lad who'd been bought for a modest £33,000.

After our then manager Bill Shankly "threw him in at the deep end" in our opening match of the next season against Nottingham Forest, whom we beat 3-1 with Kevin scoring the first goal, I realised he would go far.

Last year a book company got Bill Shankly to present him with a commemorative sword — and Kev promptly handed it back as a token of gratitude for everything our former boss had done for him.

I've benefited in several ways from Kev's generosity. Most of all at the high point to my testimonial year when he came all the way up to Anfield to play in my all-star team against Anderlecht after appearing against Argentina the previous night. He should have gone straight back to Germany to prepare for the following Saturday's important match in the Bundesliga.

You can bet Kevin's generosity won't extend to doing us any favours this Saturday at The Dell, although he'll be the first to buy me a drink afterwards.

If Kev plays, it'll be his fourth outing against us. In the three others he played for Hamburger, first in a friendly arranged as part of the transfer deal, which they won; second the first-leg of the Super Cup at Hamburg where the result was a draw; and third in the return at Anfield where we won by a thumping 6-0.

Claustrophobia

The Dell has never been a happy hunting ground for us, as it's one of those grounds where stands and terraces close to the pitch induce a feeling of claustrophobia.

Consequently we tend not to use the full width of the pitch and bunch up. This was the reason for our 3-2 defeat there last term.

To take a point this time will constitute a moral victory.

The following midweek we meet Third Division Swindon in the Third Round of the League Cup at Anfield. In the first-leg of the previous round we provided one of the biggest shocks by losing to Bradford City 1-0 away. Fortunately we redeemed ourselves with a 4-0 win in the return.

There must be no more stumbling if we're to get to Wembley.

pleads Ray McHale

used to the new formation I certainly think the blend is right.

"Even though we lost at Ipswich and Southampton, the potential is definitely there for us to finish in the top six. After all it only needs a few successes to bolster confidence, as the post Christmas period last year showed," McHale pointed out.

McHale also shares the same optimism for his former club, whom he sees as candidates to start life in higher company next season despite their disastrous start to the season.

"They're certain to go up if they get the back four sorted out and a player with Rollings' experience is bound to make a big difference.

For the last three years Swindon have always scored enough goals to make it but at the end of the day it's been the goals against which have proved the stumbling block.

"I think the Cup run did add extra pressure last season because after it was over we were the team everyone wanted to beat, which made all our matches seem like a Cup Final."

"But," McHale reflected, "if we'd really been good enough we'd have got promotion and the fact that three players scored 60 goals between them and we still missed out shows there must have been something wrong."

McHale did receive some compensation for missing promotion

by one point followed by coming so near to a place at Wembley in the last two years by being included in the PFA Third Division team on both occasions.

"That's something I'll always cherish," he said. "You can't be praised much higher than by those whom you play against."

Any doubts McHale had about leaving the Third Division were quickly dispelled after his return from Brighton's pre-season tour in Holland.

"Without being disrespectful to the other clubs, who've always done their best for me, the First Division is a different world. Things like pre-season tours; sponsored cars and spending money are certainly unheard of in the lower Divisions."

"That's why I'm quite happy just to play for Brighton."

Wolves earlier this year, which made his new club's 2-0 victory on the first day of the season all the sweeter.

"I wasn't happy with my game," McHale admitted afterwards, "but all the same I enjoyed it — especially being on the winning side on my debut. Although I don't know much about the First Division yet I'm sure that on that performance we won't struggle this season."

"With a class player like Peter Ward, who's got terrific skill, and Mick Robinson, who soon showed what he's capable of, we must surely do well. There's such a great spirit as well," McHale stressed. "Everyone works for each other and although it'll take time to get

I'LL never forget my first encounter with Terry Venables. I was only ten.

Dad had taken me along to watch his team Q.P.R. play a home match and meet their stars of the day, like Rodney Marsh, and the Morgan twins.

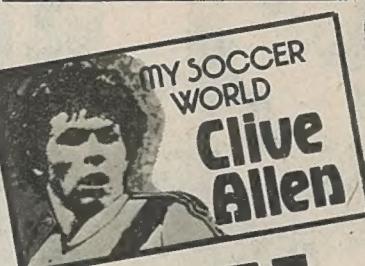
After the game, dad, who was manager, was busy with directors and distinguished visitors in the boardroom and left me on my own for a while.

As I knew my way around Loftus Road I decided to go down to the dressing room to see if any of the players were still around.

They'd all gone but I found a football and strolled out on to the pitch for a kickabout on my own.

On the other side of the ground was Terry Venables, a player dad had just signed from Spurs.

The old and the new. Theatre stars Bud Flanagan (below, right) and Chesney Allen and goalscorers Mike Flanagan and Clive Allen (right).



'FLANAGAN AND ALLEN ARE BACK in the goals business'

Terry was having his photograph taken and being interviewed by the Press. He had played with dad at Tottenham and was a close family friend.

Suddenly T.V. came over and asked if he could join me. One of the biggest stars of the time was actually asking me for a game!

Naturally I boasted to all my mates at school that I was not only on first name terms with Terry Venables but had played with him.

Ever since then he has kept a close eye on my career and vice versa. So you can see why I have no regrets about leaving Arsenal to join him at Crystal Palace.

If I'd had any doubts about this move there's no way I would have agreed to leave Arsenal, even though Terry Neill had made it perfectly clear he no longer wanted me.

Palace DID want me and were

willing to part with world-class full-back Kenny Sansom to get me.

I couldn't have joined a friendlier, or potentially more exciting club. More than anything their style appealed to me. T.V. gives players their heads, allows them freedom of expression and to play their natural games.

He's all for entertainment and likes us to go forward as much as possible. Palace's go-for-goals attitude suits me down to the ground.

When I met T.V. to discuss the transfer he didn't talk much about the team. He made no rash promises about winning Championships. All Terry was concerned about was the way I felt.

He told me he wouldn't sign me unless I was absolutely sure I wanted to play for Palace.

But I had already made up my mind they were the club for me and



had the necessary ingredients to be successful.

My dad was certain as well. So much so he didn't even bother to come with me when I signed the contract.

T.V. couldn't have been more considerate. Imagine any other manager saying to his new £1 million buy on the eve of his debut at Liverpool: "Listen, son. If you aren't mentally tuned yet I'll leave you out of the side at Anfield. You tell me if you feel you are ready or not."

Well, as you know I did play at Liverpool. There was no way I wanted to miss that game.

I didn't score. My first goal for Palace came in my second home appearance in a 5-2 win over Middlesbrough when I notched a memorable hat-trick. Let's hope

they are the first of many.

Apart from T.V. I already knew most of the lads at Selhurst Park. I'd played with and against them in England Youth and Under-21 games.

Funny enough I made my Under-21 debut against East Germany in Jena last April when I came on as a second-half substitute for my new team-mate Vince Hilaire. I roomed with Vince that trip, where I also met Paul Hinshelwood.

Billy Gilbert and Terry Fenwick had also been my England Youth team-mates in Poland last year.

Joining Palace has given headline writers the golden opportunity to describe Mike Flanagan and myself as the new version of one of Britain's all-time great comedy acts — Bud Flanagan and Chesney Allen.

Our namesakes were part of the

famous Crazy Gang and apparently were masters of timing and quick-fire delivery of laughs, when they performed at the Victoria Palace.

Mike and I are hoping to develop the same rapport, but to score goals at the Palace of Selhurst Park.

I get on well with Mike on and off the field. We are neighbours in Hornchurch, Essex and have often bumped into each other over the years.



Flan's an under-rated player, especially in the air. He doesn't always get the credit he deserves because of his unselfish attitude on the park.

He loves scoring goals, but won't hesitate to set up a chance for a team-mate should the situation arise.

Like Palace's recent 2-1 League Cup Second Round second-leg victory over Bolton at Selhurst Park. Flan made both the goals for myself and Gerry Francis.

Yes, Flanagan and Allen are back — only this time it's goal-business not show-business!

Incredible to think that just a few short weeks ago I was hoping to form a striking duo with Frank Stapleton at Arsenal.

I wasn't at Highbury long enough to get to know the lads all that well.

I had met Willie Young at a P.F.A. Business Management Course and of course, have known Pat Jennings ever since his days at Spurs with dad.

Even though I was only an Arsenal player for 62 days I'll still retain an interest in the club.

They're so well organised and consistent success can't be far away. I hope so anyway. Glory for The Gunners can only be good for the whole game.

Kenny Sansom has brought more strength and stability to their defence. His attacking ability could

also prove a valuable asset.

But as a player, Arsenal are past history as far as I'm concerned, so are Queens Park Rangers.

Naturally they will always be very special to me. First clubs always are.

The team has changed a bit since last season, with a few youngsters such as Wayne Fereday being given their chance by manager Tommy Docherty.

Skipper Glenn Roeder lives just along the road from me and keeps me in touch with all the news from Loftus Road.

Tony Currie, despite recent transfer rumours, is still with Rangers. A bad injury kept him out for long spells last season, but he's back and approaching something like his best form.

I also got on well with Tommy Docherty, who took over as man-

Clive turns away after scoring his first goal for Palace against Middlesbrough.

ager shortly after I had made my big breakthrough into the first team.

Despite his off-the-field problems, The Doc was still a bubbling character, cracking jokes even sometimes when you least expected them. Like after a defeat.

He's also notoriously unpredictable. You never know what he's going to say... or where he's going to say it.

Players have come off the park thinking they've played well and received a rolicking. While other times when I've thought the team played badly got a "well done" and smiles.

I don't care what other people think of him, I like The Doc and will always be grateful for the help and advice he gave me at Rangers.

This Saturday (September 20th) Palace travel to Everton. I played at Goodison Park when I was 15, for London Schools v. Liverpool Schools.

Fervour

The match wasn't particularly memorable, the atmosphere of Merseyside and fervour of the fans was. They are incredible.

Everton are having problems, but the pride is still there. Perhaps all they and manager Gordon Lee need is a little bit of luck. Hope they don't get it Saturday, though.

Next Wednesday (September 24th) Palace face another tough match, our Third Round League Cup-tie at Tottenham.

Dad's old club beat us 4-3 this season, when I made my home debut, but that result will count for nothing this time. I've a feeling we'll hold them at White Hart Lane and get a result in the replay.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP THIRD ROUND

Shakers can shock Forest

HERE isn't much wrong with English football when it can produce a draw, as it did for next week's Third Round of the League Cup, that had everyone cooing with every successive tie.

Should it be White Hart Lane for the titanic duel with Crystal Palace or maybe Cambridge where Villa will be hoping they don't go the same way as the already vanquished holders Wolves?

There are some intriguing possibilities all right which should produce one of the best series of matches ever played in one round.

It's hard to know where to start but as Forest have appeared in three successive Finals we'll go to BURY.

The Lancashire club may be in the Fourth Division, and they may have lost to NOTTINGHAM FOREST in the Fifth Round of the same competition as recently as 1978, but The Shakers will take no notice of that.

They have a new manager and as Jim Ley was once a Nottingham Forest stalwart himself he'll be particularly anxious to put one over Brian Clough as he did over Joe Harvey and another former club Newcastle in the last round.

While Gigg Lane will be bursting at the seams and the club taking record receipts as they did when Forest earned them over £22,000 last time, Edgeley Park is bound to do the same for STOCKPORT'S big night with ARSENAL.

County's astonishing performance in winning at Sunderland has fired the imagination of the Manchester public, and with United already out and City away to Luton, County should pull in thousands of floaters.

And what price another scalp for SWINDON this year?

Humiliation

They always seem capable of springing a surprise but if they do that at Anfield the adjective will hardly suffice.

LIVERPOOL suffered the humiliation of losing a leg to Bradford in the Second Round and they won't get a second chance this time.

ASTON VILLA may have put out Leeds with consummate ease, but they may not have such calm progress against CAMBRIDGE, who've already toppled holders Wolves.

When the two met in the F.A. Cup last season Villa won easily in a replay but United have begun well in the League and appear to have found a formidable striking partnership in George Reilly and Tom Finney.

MANCHESTER CITY, who have had their share of horror shows in the last couple of years, instance Shrewsbury and Halifax, can't take a trip to LUTON lightly.

And the last place in the world that F.A. Cup holders WEST HAM will want to be beaten is in CHARLTON'S Valley.

This is just one of three derbies and men like Derek Hales and Billy Bonds who've played for both clubs will need no motivating for a match which means so much to both sets of fans as well as players.

The second all-London battle is at White Hart Lane where CRYSTAL PALACE will be the visitors and anyone who saw that cracking 4-3 TOTTENHAM win at Selhurst Park in the first week of the season will already have got his

ticket for the re-match.

The third derby will have even that sleepy corner of England, East Anglia, buzzing.

NORWICH and IPSWICH, pride of Norfolk and Suffolk, will knock the stuffing out of one another at Portman Road and Messrs. Robson and Bond will get no peace from would-be ticket collectors before this little showdown.

An early chance too for Clive Woods to show Bobby Robson he was wrong to let him go to the opposition.

At the Goldstone Ground BRIGHTON

will find COVENTRY less accommodating than Tranmere Rovers, while The Sky Blues having lopped off MANCHESTER UNITED'S head will be thinking they could have had better reward.

Meanwhile up at Goodison the new look EVERTON will find that WEST BROM are keen to wipe out the memory of a disappointing year.

Handshakes all round — after the match — at St Andrews with both managers knowing the home and away dressing-rooms equally well.

BIRMINGHAM'S Jim Smith moved to the Midlands on the strength of his achievements for BLACKBURN, and now his successor Howard Kendall will be eager again to display the skills that once captivated the Blues supporters.

WATFORD'S sensational elimination of Southampton has brought them nothing better than a trip to Hillsborough to meet SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY and over one leg there can be no more talk of a Watford Gap being closed as it was against Saints.

Don Masson, Rachid Harkouk and Eddie Kelly will be meeting old friends as NOTTS COUNTY take on Q.P.R.

BARNESLEY will have a five figure gate and rich hopes of further progress against CARDIFF. BRISTOL ROVERS will know they will have to be on their mettle to sort out PORTSMOUTH and PRESTON will expect no favours from Third Division OXFORD.

All of which adds up to the fact that these Third Round matches are as good as anything we could have expected.



West Ham's Billy Bonds

THIRD ROUND DRAW

Brighton v. Coventry

Cambridge v. Aston Villa

Stockport v. Arsenal

Spurs v. Crystal Palace

Luton v. Manchester City

Bury v. Nottingham Forest

Everton v. West Brom

Birmingham v. Blackburn

Sheff Wed v. Watford

Liverpool v. Swindon

Notts County v. Q.P.R.

Barnsley v. Cardiff

Charlton v. West Ham

Bristol Rovers v. Portsmouth

Preston v. Oxford

Ipswich v. Norwich



**Thijssen and
Mühren on
target for
Championship
success**

DUTCH

THIJSSEN: I must say I was looking forward to the start of this season in England far more than I ever did in Holland. I was really excited about our chances in the League because I know we finished last season as the best team in the country. Did you feel the same?

MUHREN: Yes — and that was the main reason I decided to sign a new contract after my old one expired at the end of last season. I could have gone to Belgian club Bruges and earned more money, but I feel that by staying at Ipswich I have an excellent chance of winning some top honours like the Championship. If the future had not looked so bright I think I would have moved on.

THIJSSEN: I don't think either of us have any regrets about leaving Holland. You were first to arrive, and it was because of what you said that I decided to follow. There is so much more atmosphere about the football in England, the fans turn out in bigger numbers and the football itself is better for players and supporters.

MUHREN: It took me a few games to settle at Ipswich, but once I got to know the style of play I was happy. Dutch football was becoming too technical, like a game of chess, and coming to England was certainly good for me. Back home we would be used to a few difficult games and a few easy ones. Here there is no such thing as an easy game. They are all hard, but I enjoy them even though I feel tired at the end!

THIJSSEN: The game is a lot faster

in England. Players tend to play the ball quicker and they are more direct. In Holland the build-up is slow, they play passes across the field and the fans want more action. I think this is why so many people stay away.

MUHREN: I'm sure you are right. Attendances in Holland have really dropped in the past two or three years because the fans don't see enough goals and the games don't provide any excitement or entertainment. I know the English fans moan now and again, but they are very lucky compared to supporters in a lot of countries.

THIJSSEN: I enjoy my game here because there are not so many bad tackles. The referees are better, they let the game continue whenever possible, but they can also spot the fouls. I think the game is tougher, but fairer, because the tackle from behind is not allowed. It suits me better because I like to have the ball and run with it.

MUHREN: I feel exactly the same. It can sometimes be physical but the referees are good at protecting the ball players. Our team at Ipswich is based on skill and the system we play suits midfield players like us. When I first arrived I found the ball was flying over my head a lot because the defenders wanted to get it up to the strikers as quickly as possible. We slowed it down to get the midfield players more involved and we found it worked well.

THIJSSEN: I think the new system was working well when I joined the club six months after you. I felt

Arne Mühren (left) and Alan Brazil (right)



Graham Rix

DELIGHT!

at home almost immediately and my only complaint was that I didn't score enough goals. Did you feel the same?

MUHREN: I was a little worried, but in the Ipswich team we have good strikers like Paul Mariner, Eric Gates and Alan Brazil who score regularly. This means there is no real pressure on midfield men to score. It's the sort of team where everyone plays a part. Last season, for example, all the outfield players grabbed at least a couple.

THIJSSEN: I hope the same happens this time because as I said, I'm sure we have a great chance of winning something. This Ipswich side is the best I've played in, it's a good blend of young players and experienced people like you and me, Mick Mills and Paul Mariner. We don't have to be afraid of any sides — even Liverpool.

MUHREN: We proved what we can do with that long unbeaten run last season. We beat Manchester United 6-0, won at Arsenal and picked up a point at Liverpool, all excellent performances. I enjoy the big games away from home because the atmosphere is so tense and it seems to get you going rather than having the opposite effect.

THIJSSEN: I love the big games, too, and I consider myself lucky to be able to say I have played at grounds like Anfield, Old Trafford and Highbury. Also, to play against the big names like Hoddle, Dalglish, Rix, Wilkins and many others is really something. It makes you want to do well.

MUHREN: Well, we both obviously enjoy playing in the English First Division, but it's also true that our families enjoy living here. We live in a nice part of the country in Suffolk, the people are very friendly and it all helps. Do you think you'll be staying after the end of the season when your contract is up?

THIJSSEN: That will be up to Bobby Robson if he still wants me! At the moment I am in no hurry to quit because everything is going so well. My form has been good enough to get me back in the Dutch national squad, which was a real bonus, so if I am offered another contract I think there would be a good chance of me accepting.

MUHREN: In the meantime we both have ambitions to fulfil. I know we would like to help Ipswich win the Championship, but the F.A. Cup also means a lot to me. Playing at Wembley would mean so much to me since I have always watched the big games

there on television. I remember seeing Ipswich beat Arsenal in 1978 before I knew I would be coming to England and it would be a terrific thrill to play there before I return to Holland.

THIJSSEN: I feel exactly the same. I've been lucky enough to play at some fabulous grounds all over the world, but nothing would beat a Wembley appearance in the F.A. Cup Final for Ipswich. The other players at Portman Road still talk about their great day there and I know I would enjoy the occasion every bit as much. Maybe we'll be lucky this season and appear in the F.A. Cup Final.



Paul Mariner (dark shirt, left) and Frans Thijssen (above).

SEVERAL Football League clubs, including First Division West Bromwich Albion and Everton, are showing interest in highly promising Glentoran youngsters George Neill and Sammy Troughton who, at 16, are rated two of the brightest prospects in Irish football.

Roy still unsettled

ROY McDonough, who cost Walsall £15,000 last season from Birmingham City, is still on a weekly contract unable to resolve his differences with the club.

Ironically, McDonough has turned in some good form for The Saddlers this season and he has attracted the interest of Blackpool, Charlton, Reading and Brentford.

Walsall would want in the region of £20,000 for the 21-year-old striker which could off-set the £10,000 they paid for 19-year-old Steve Smith from Southern League Bromsgrove Rovers.

JIMMY Hallybone, an 18-year-old midfield player with Orient, played schools soccer for Essex and London and was a district 1,500 metres running Champion.

COVENTRY 'not good enough' says Hill

COVENTRY chairman Jimmy Hill is clearly determined to whip his First Division club into a trophy winning outfit.

The players were beaming broadly after returning to the dressing room having disposed of Manchester United in the League Cup — and Hill was one of the first to congratulate the players.

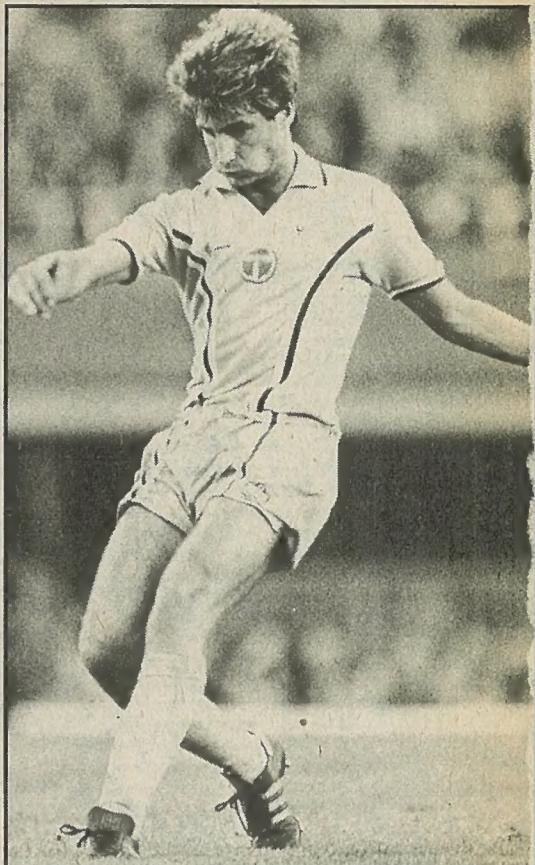
"Well done lads," he said.

His next remark astonished most of them. "It was a great result, but it is not good enough. We can do much better than that."

Hill explained afterwards: "It is simply a question of setting our sights and standards as high as we possibly can. I have already talked about aiming for the title — and people think I'm joking.

"As far as I'm concerned our target is the title, and if we are going to achieve it we cannot be satisfied with a moderate performance. Our standards have got to be much higher than that in every game we play."

Coventry beat Manchester United 2-0 on aggregate over two legs of the League Cup with Tom English and Andy Blair (right) scoring the crucial goals.



'PUSH ME HARD' insists Sabella



ALEX Sabella, Leeds United's midfield star, admires managers who drive him hard in training. The Argentinian admits that he is not the most athletic player in the First Division. "I myself have highs and lows and this has always been the case. I'm not the most athletic person and it comes as very hard work having to get back in defence as well as being further up the field to get moves under way. I'm not lazy in training but I do need pushing, and in fact I'm grateful to whoever has pushed me afterwards even if it was torture at the time!"

CHUNG WANTS A JOB

SAMMY Chung, the former Wolves manager, could be returning to England in the near future.

Chung, who has been with the Swedish Second Division club, Vesteras, since leaving Molineux, is now keen to link up with an English League club.

He said: "I don't necessarily want to come back as a number one. I feel that I could help an older man, or a young manager who requires an experienced coach."

KEVIN Sheldon, the 24-year-old Stoke winger, has made a courageous return to the top.

The local-born forward signed professionally in June, 1973, but has twice broken his leg since then. He played only one League game in the past three seasons, but is now back in First Division action.



Spurs' star signing

ENTERTAINMENT is the name of the game. Tottenham Hotspur had this in mind when they signed Willie Morgan, a disc jockey.

He heads a new programme introduced to entertain the fans before the kick-off and at half-time. A Spurs player will choose his "top five" records at every home game, and supporters can have their requests played.

WINGER Peter Marinello, who once cost Arsenal £100,000 and also played for Hibernian, Portsmouth, Motherwell and Fulham, has decided to use his speed and tricks playing indoor soccer in America.

The 30-year-old Marinello, who had three and a half years at Arsenal after joining them from Hibs in January, 1970, will start playing for Phoenix Inferno in six-a-side games next month.

Sword's thrust

A DREAM came true for Stockport centre-half Tommy Sword when he played at Roker Park in the League Cup tie against Sunderland.

"I was a Newcastle fan and often watched derby games from the Roker terraces, but never imagined I would get the chance to play there," said 22-year-old Sword.

Only a year ago, Sword was a striker playing for Bishop Auckland in the Northern League and Sunday morning football in the North East Sunday League.

Then he was snapped up by Stockport for £6,000 and converted into a centre-half, where he has been having a fine season.

PRESS BAN

NOT much doubt about the biggest flop of the season — Manchester City's boast that they would open the dressing room doors to the Press.

When the time came and City had got beaten 4-0 by Sunderland nobody seemed too keen about the idea any more.

Three days later when City played Aston Villa and snatched a 2-2 draw with two goals in the last six minutes, Malcolm Allison didn't even appear for the benefit of reporters.

Our reporter asked Paul Power and Steve Daley what had happened and the City pair told him that the boss's instructions were that no reporters were to be allowed into the dressing rooms. Things were said in the heat of the moment immediately after a game, and if these things were quoted in the Press it would not be for the good of the players or the club. Therefore the idea had been booted into touch.

NEWCASTLE may be struggling in the Second Division, but there is still enough interest to persuade a publishing firm to bring out a book about the club.

Unfortunately for the present team, the book — *The History of Newcastle United* by Paul Joannou — merely serves to remind people of the team's tremendous past achievements, particularly in the F.A. Cup.

The comparison with the present state of affairs at unhappy St James' Park is not favourable.

Mr Joannou gives an in-depth look at the club's past seasons with interesting pen pictures of many of the great players.

It is published by Inkerman Publications, price £2.50.

Robbo foiled

RAY Clemence couldn't manage it... but Birmingham City goalkeeper Jeff Wealands has done it THREE times! It's part of soccer history how Nottingham Forest's John Robertson has beaten the Liverpool 'keeper from the penalty spot in Cup ties in recent years.

Yet Wealands has a 100 per cent record against the Forest ace. His latest came when Blues drew with Forest last month and Wealands saved Robertson's penalty.

"John is more of a placer than a blaster. If you guess the right direction you have a fair chance."

Wealands had previously saved two Robertson penalties while playing for Hull City in Division Two four years ago.

'We're too fast'

RAY Kennedy, Liverpool's England midfield player, is critical of the club's apparent inability to slow games down at home matches.

Kennedy reckons Liverpool could improve on their performances at Anfield if they used a "slow, slow, quick, quick, slow" approach.

"We found it more and more difficult to get goals at Anfield last season because of opponents just pulling all their men back behind the ball," he claims.

"I felt there were times when we made it difficult for ourselves through not slowing the game down and taking our time.

"It's fair to say that we tend to fall into the trap of playing the way our crowd want us to — they have been spoilt by success, and if we're not running around at 100 miles per hour, they think we're not trying.

"They keep roaring you forward and you tend to get caught up in it. I think it's very important that we avoid that this season."

MURRAY QUILTS —after 72 hours

FORMER Celtic star Steve Murray has earned himself the most unenviable record in football. After 72 hours as manager of Forfar Athletic and without even seeing the team play, he quit the post. Steve took up the job after Archie Knox left to become assistant to manager Alex Ferguson of Aberdeen.

Appointed on the Monday, he travelled to spy on Arbroath in mid-week. Then on Thursday when he arrived at Station Park where he was to supervise the training he dropped his bombshell. Explained Murray: "I found that I couldn't give Forfar the time the post deserved because of my career in banking." Murray is a chartered accountant.



"Best of luck, Bob".
Liverpool manager Bob
Paisley scrawls a
message on
photographer Bobby
Best's leg plaster before
a game at Anfield.

PRESTON forward Jimmy Bell won a Scottish Schoolboy Athletic Association gold medal for the 4 x 100 metres sprint.

Jackett's Welsh hopes

KENNY Jackett, Watford's 18-year-old left-back, is tipped to win a Welsh cap before he is 20.

Mike England, manager of Wales, has been keeping a close check on a player who has excited Watford fans this season.

But manager Graham Taylor tempers his delight with the words: "Hang on to your first team place as the main thing. That's the best way of ensuring an international career."

After only half a dozen first team appearances the talented youngster was selected by Welsh team boss Mike England for the under-21 squad to meet Holland in September.

Swansea manager and former Welsh international John Toshack gave England the final tip on the Welshman's progress with Watford.

England said: "We've been keeping a close eye on the boy and if he develops well he will be an outstanding prospect. He performed very well in last season's youth games."

THE second Saturday of the season was not a happy occasion for goalkeepers celebrating milestones in their careers. Ray Clemence (Liverpool) figured in a 2-0 defeat at Leicester on his 600th first team appearance for the club. Jim Platt (Middlesbrough) picked the ball out of the net five times at Crystal Palace on his 350th appearance.

McParland in charge

FORMER Aston Villa, Wolves, Plymouth and Northern Ireland wing-ace Peter McParland is now in charge of the Hong Kong national team.

Newly-born McParland, who also once bossed Irish League outfit Glentoran, earned F.A. and League Cup-winning medals with Villa, was a leading marksman in the 1958 World Cup Finals, in Sweden, and, in all, gained 34 full caps for his native Northern Ireland.

Kevin's a cracker



A DREAM came true for Kevin Medhurst when he travelled to London to meet his hero Kevin Keegan, and receive a free place at a soccer school holiday in Torremolinos in November.

Kevin, aged 12, from Partridge Piece, Cranfield, Bedford, was selected as the 'star' pupil from more than 5,000 who took part in the Coral-sponsored Bobby Moore Soccer Schools.

For four successive days, Kevin's stepfather, Mr Michael Knight worked ten hours on nightshift and then drove Kevin the 100 miles to Birmingham for the daily soccer tuition. Whilst Kevin played, Mr Knight slept in the car and then returned to work.

Kevin's reward is a holiday for two in Torremolinos. Whilst there Kevin will join other lads in a special weeklong soccer school run by Moore with the help of former internationals Sir Alf Ramsey, Joe Kinnear, Terry Paine, and Ron Springett.

Briefly...

• OUTWARD bound courses seem to be the new way of developing young soccer talent. Southampton manager Lawrie McMenemy has often praised their worth as character developers. Now other clubs are joining in and this year saw Nigel Callaghan (Watford), Alan Cosby and Ray Brammer (Luton), Mark Adams (Shrewsbury), Glenn Perryfather (Southend), Ian Crooks (Spurs) and Glyn Hodges, Gary Waterman and Mark Morris (Wimbledon) all off to Scotland for an Outward Bound School at Loch Eil.

• CZECHOSLOVAKIA, who had to postpone a trip to Dublin last May, are to visit Eire on April 29 next year.

• SCARBOROUGH won the North Riding Senior Cup for the 14th time in their history when they beat South Bank from the Northern League 1-0.

• JIM Blenkinsopp, an FA councillor, and former Durham FA Secretary, has died at his Bishop Auckland home at the age of 72.

• YORK City's victory over Bournemouth by four clear goals on the first day of the season represented their best start to a League season for 26 years.

• THE dame Whelan was famous at Manchester United in the 50's. Billy Whelan, one of the most cultured inside forwards in the game and a Republic of Ireland international, was a household name.

Now there is another Whelan at United. Dave Sexton has paid £20,000 to Irish club Bohemians for 19 year-old full back Tony Whelan. Whelan trained with United pre-season and impressed sufficiently for Sexton to add him to his pay roll.

• NICE to see old-timers of long-defunct Belfast Celtic back in action again after a lifetime out of the game.

The Celtic veterans, who had former West Brom, Northern Ireland and Great Britain centre-half Jack Vernon and ex-Manchester United and Ireland goalkeeper Tommy Breen in their line-up, faced a Showbiz XI at Belfast's once-glamorous Celtic Park, the gate receipts being donated to the Heart Transplant Fund.

• HOME Farm are installing a new floodlight system at their compact Tolka Park. At present there is no stadium in Dublin capable of staging a European game under lights. The famous Dublin smelters hope that Manchester United will provide the opposition for the official switch-on in mid-November.

Tartan Talk

DANNY MCGRAN



'CHARLIE'S A NEW DENIS LAW'

I DON'T always see eye-to-eye with my boss — who does? — but I could not agree more with Billy McNeill when he tips a golden future for Charlie Nicholas.

Young Charlie dresses like television detective Eddie Shoestring and plays like Denis Law, and even Jock Stein joined his fan club when the Scotland boss named him in the Under-21 pool for the trip to Sweden.

Said Billy of our 18-year-old from Maryhill on the North side of Glasgow: "At the start of the season I was of the opinion that Charlie was the best front player on our books, but I didn't want to throw him in."

"However, I can't over-protect him either." The boss is dead right, for Charlie has many of the assets which made a certain Kenny Dalglish a Celtic legend. And quite apart from the football he is a great young lad to have in your company.

He is the kind of teenager whose head won't get inflated — not that it would be allowed to do so at Parkhead.

And remember it is not every player who makes the Scottish Under-21 squad before he plays a full competitive match for his club

first team as Charlie did.

On a gloomier note, Scottish football will have to think carefully about a proposal from the Players' Union which plans to pull the plug on big money transfers.

The idea, announced by secretary Harry Lawrie, is that there should be no money changing hands between clubs when a player finishes his contract and wants to move on.

The move came after Harry visited a United States congress of FIFPRO — the International Federation of Professional Footballers — which includes such all-powerful nations as Italy, West Germany, Holland, Austria, France, Spain and Belgium.

They claim that the transfer system which operates in Europe is a direct breach of the Treaty of Rome, no less, which states that a worker should have no restraint placed on him if he wants to change his job.

In other words there should be

no question of a fee and a player should be allowed to go just as if he were a secretary moving from one firm to another.

Said Harry: "We told the SFA, informing them of our intentions, purely as a matter of courtesy, but we are prepared to test this in the courts if necessary."

Well, as a player of course I can see that this opens up tremendous possibilities for the future ... a secure future I mean.

The rewards are obvious if you can not only negotiate your own contract with a new club when your contract ends, but also put the transfer fee in your pocket.

But I think there is a lot of talking to be done before this is introduced.

There is a big danger that the rich could get richer and the poor could get poorer and as Aberdeen manager Alex Ferguson, a former PFA chairman, said: "This could kill the game. You cannot spend £540,000 on a new enclosure and

pay your best players big money on what comes in at the turnstiles."

Of course, Harry Lawrie underlines that if a player wants to move in the course of his contract, there would still be a fee involved.

I'll watch developments very carefully ... which is exactly my message to all concerned in the idea.

Another controversial idea floating about the game just now is the desire to change the early rounds of the League Cup to one-off ties — like the Scottish Cup — instead of the current home and away arrangement.

This, it is argued, would bring back the sting to a fixture list, which on the Wednesday and Saturday late in August when the Second Round legs were played, looked pretty unexciting.

Motivate

Crowds — and excitement — were down and the critics argued that we were given a League Cup Saturday just as the League programme was beginning to motivate interest.

I can only say ... Thank goodness they didn't change it this year!

Had it been a one-off we would currently have no further interest in the League Cup, for in the first-leg we went down 1-0 to Stirling Albion at Annfield.

Albion, despite First Division status, are no mugs, but it is still a result which caused us acute embarrassment.

And things were no better in the early part of the return at Parkhead, for Matt McPhee put them 2-0 ahead on aggregate with only 12 minutes gone.

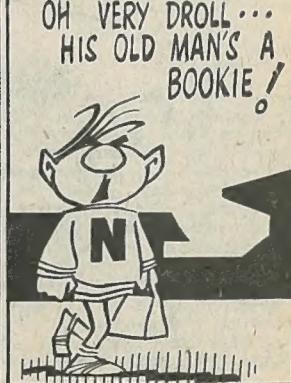
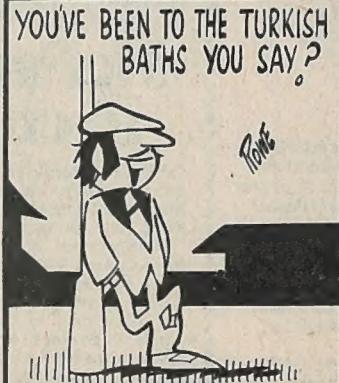
Dom Sullivan equalised before half-time, but it was not until three minutes before full-time that Tommy Burns' left foot tied it all up on aggregate. We eventually won 6-2.

But it was such a close shave I half expected my beard to disappear!

See you in two weeks.

NEXT WEEK'S TARTAN
TALK BY RANGERS'
DEREK JOHNSTONE

NOBBY





IAN ST.JOHN

A Liverpool goalscoring legend and the predecessor of Kevin Keegan and Kenny Dalglish as Anfield's favourite forward, Ian St. John began his highly successful career at Motherwell, and by the time he transferred to Liverpool in 1961, he already had seven full Scottish caps to his credit. Once at Anfield, St. John formed a successful partnership with Roger Hunt, and the two international forwards combined to push Liverpool to the forefront of English football. Yet while St. John continued to score regularly for Liverpool at international level, his career never completely took off. In April, 1965 St. John gained his 21st full cap, against England at Wembley. He scored in a 2-2 draw, but inexplicably was never called up by his country again. But a month later St. John returned to Wembley with Liverpool for the F.A. Cup Final against Leeds. Success in the competition had eluded Bill Shankly's side time and again, and once again their chances of success were in the balance after 90 minutes with the score level 1-1. The stage was set for one man to earn the undying gratitude of his team's supporters, and St. John it was who muscled his way through a packed Leeds defence to force home the extra-time winner. Ian St. John still takes an active interest in the game, and after a spell at Sheffield Wednesday as coach to Jack Charlton, he is now a leading member of the TV football presentation team.

FLORIAN ALBERT

FLORIAN Albert was one of the genuinely great players to emerge from Hungary after the 1956 Revolution had decimated their world-beating team of the early 50's. Albert, born on September 15th, 1941, wore the colours of Ferencvaros throughout his long and distinguished career as a brilliantly skilled striker. He made 75 appearances for the Hungarian national team, including the 1962 and 1966 World Cup campaigns. In Chile in 1962 he teamed up brilliantly with strong centre-forward Tichy, the attacking duo accounting for seven of Hungary's eight goals. And in England four years later, Albert reached his international peak alongside diminutive right-winger Bene in the side that demolished Bulgaria and World Champions Brazil before surprisingly losing to the Russians in the Quarter-Finals. Seriously injured in 1969, the super-talented Albert struggled to regain his former heights and finally hung up his boots in 1974.



SANDOR KOCSSIS

KOCSSIS, Hidegkuti, Puskas and Czibor. Probably the deadliest attack that Europe has ever known, and the one that led Hungary to unprecedented peaks during the early 1950's, including the 1952 Olympic title plus 6-3 and 7-1 wins over England as 'losers' for the 1954 World Cup Finals. Kocsis was a goalscoring left-flank striker, whose speciality was to hit the net with spectacular headers. In 64 national team outings his peak performance was to finish top scorer in the 1954 World Cup with 11 goals in five matches, including four in an 8-3 win over West Germany — the team that later pipped them in the Final. Kocsis, born on September 20th, 1929, took refuge in Switzerland after the 1956 Revolution, keeping in form with Young Fellows of Zurich before taking Spanish nationality and renewing his scoring partnership with Czibor in the ranks of Barcelona and disputing European and Fairs Cup Finals — surprisingly losing them both.

DAVID O'LEARY

ARGUABLY the most talented young centre-back currently playing in Europe. Although born in London, David moved to Dublin before his first birthday, and there he remained until Arsenal spotted him as a talented teenager. By the age of 17 David had already broken through into the first team at Highbury, and he soon emerged as the perfect replacement for Frank McLintock in the centre of the Arsenal defence. International honours were sure to follow, and he was rewarded with his first full cap for the Republic of Ireland against England in 1977. Since then he has been a permanent fixture in the emerald green shirt, and up to the start of the season had gained a total of 17 caps, six of which have been played alongside his promising younger brother Pierce. Already David O'Leary has appeared in three F.A. Cup Finals and a European Cup-Winners' Cup Final, and his successor Pat Rice and Liam Brady as the Arsenal captain. His future at the top seems assured, and further honours are sure to follow. The only question mark remaining in David O'Leary's future is can English football hold on to such a precious talent?



BOBBY MOORE



THE most capped player in English football history, Bobby Moore will always hold a special place in the British record books, for he was the commanding central defender who captained England to their historic World Cup Final victory over West Germany in 1966 at Wembley. Although Bobby played out the final few months of his career at Fulham, it was with West Ham that he won all of his 108 full international caps spanning a period of 13 years. His first of those caps came against Peru in 1962, and within a year Moore was captaining the side. In 1964 he skippered West Ham to victory in the F.A. Cup Final against Preston, and a year later he helped Ron Greenwood's team lift the European Cup-Winners' Cup. One of the coolest, calmest defenders ever to have played the game - there is no doubt that Moore would belong in any team of past all-time greats. He returned to Wembley, scene of so many of his great triumphs, in 1975 as a member of the Fulham side beaten in that year's F.A. Cup Final by, ironically, West Ham. Awarded an O.B.E. for his services to British football, the ever-popular Bobby is now manager of Isthmian League Oxford City after a long absence from the game.

KEVIN KEEGAN



If George Best was Britain's footballing superstar of the late 60's, then Kevin Keegan has undoubtedly inherited his mantle during the late 70's. The current European Footballer of the Year, he is enjoying that title for the second year in succession. Captain of England and his new club Southampton, Keegan's inspirational qualities have helped him to

the very top of the footballing world. But times were not always so good for the Doncaster-born Keegan. After being rejected by his home-town club, it was only after a spell working in a factory that Keegan convinced Scunthorpe that he was worth a risk.

He settled in at the Old Show Ground almost immediately, and his speed and natural ability soon brought him to the attention of Liverpool manager Bill Shankly. Since that move to Anfield, Kevin

Keegan has never looked back. Capped by England for the first time in 1973 against Wales, he also scored twice in Liverpool's 3-1 F.A. Cup Final victory against Newcastle the following year. League Championship medals followed at Liverpool before the scene of Keegan's greatest triumph, the European Cup Final in Rome in 1977. The 3-0 victory over Borussia Mönchengladbach was Keegan's final game for Liverpool before a move to Hamburger SV, and he could not have left the club on a higher note. While in West Germany he guided his new club to the Bundesliga and last season's European Cup Final. Now he is back in England, and don't be surprised to see the name of Southampton FC on at least one trophy in the very near future!

DANNY McGRAN

ONE of the most accomplished full-backs ever to have graced the Scottish game, The Celtic captain and a permanent fixture in the Scottish line-up until a crippling knee injury kept him out of the games for almost two years. Happily, Danny is now back to his very best and is currently proving that experience and outstanding football ability is more than enough to win him the international nod over his younger challengers. Danny went to Parkhead straight from school, gaining his first cap in May 1973 in a 2-0 win at Wrexham against Wales. Up to the start of the present season he had gained 47 full caps. He has also gained a host of Scottish League, Cup and League Cup winners' medals and seems certain to lead the Parkhead challenge both in Europe and Scotland for many years to come.



CLIFF JONES

CAPPED 59 times by Wales this speedy winger from Swansea also won a European Cup-Winners' Cup medal (1963), and was a member of Tottenham Hotspur's famous "double" winning team of 1960-61 as well as collecting another two F.A. Cup winners' medals in 1962 and 1967.

Joining Swans Town straight from school he made his League debut in 1952-53 and gained his first full international cap during the following season.



In February, 1958, Tottenham Hotspur secured his transfer for £35,000 and in that year he was one of the stars of the Welsh side that reached the Quarter-Finals of the World Cup in Sweden.

He recovered from a broken leg to help Spurs gain the honours already mentioned and as a reward for his efforts they eventually allowed him to move to Fulham on a free transfer in 1968 when he received a substantial signing-on fee.

When he retired from League football in 1970 he had made 511 appearances and scored 182 goals.

STANLEY MATTHEWS



THE word "genius" is overused when recalling great players but nothing less will do justice to this scintillating outside-right who was possibly the top crowd-pulling entertainer of all time. Nobody ever tired of watching him sell the dummy to opposing full-backs before leaving them for dead with burning accuracy.

Stanley Matthews' League career began with Stoke City in March, 1932, and ended with the same club in 1965 when he appeared for them at the age of 50 years five days — the oldest player ever to appear in the First Division.

Like all geniuses Matthews had his critics. They said he slowed down an attack, but he gave that the lie with his dazzling display in the 1953 F.A. Cup Final when he was the star of Blackpool's astounding 4-3 win over Bolton Wanderers.

His return to Stoke in 1961, after being with Blackpool since 1947, revitalised the Potties club and helped them return to the First Division.

This superbly fit athlete played 54 times for England over a period of nearly 23

A ONE-TIME soccer reject looks

to be the answer to Aberdeen's £1 million goal problem since the departure of Steve Archibald to Spurs during the summer for an £850,000 fee.

Pittodrie manager Alex Ferguson looked at strikers at home and abroad to see if they could provide the solution, but it could be that the man he has been searching for is already on his team's books.

Mark McGhee, once given a free transfer by Bristol City and then sold for a cut-price fee by Newcastle, is the player who has been buzzing up-front for the Scottish Champions since the start of the season and his play has been absolutely outstanding. With European Cup football at Aberdeen this season, McGhee could just be the man to put his club on the map.

Fergie is still looking for support for McGhee, but there is no doubt that this is going to be a big season for the player who almost joined part-time Partick Thistle in the middle of last season when his Aberdeen career looked all over.

"My confidence took a knock when I failed to settle with Newcastle," says McGhee. "It was my second spell in England and I felt I could really make the grade down there.

"I was homesick the first time around when I was at Bristol City and asked to be allowed to leave Ashton Gate and return to Scotland. I was only a youngster at the time.

"I had a couple of good seasons for Morton before they sold me to Newcastle for over £100,000. The



Aberdeen manager Alex Ferguson is reaping the benefits after taking a chance with Mark McGhee in his attack.

REJECT McGHEE SOLVES DONS' £1m PROBLEM

club were struggling when I arrived and unfortunately, things didn't improve."

McGhee was bought by Newcastle at the same time as £100,000 striker Mike Larnach, from Clydebank, but neither Scot found a settled place in the troubled St James' Park first team.

The only answer was a return to Scotland where their talents were already noted and respected. Larnach joined Motherwell for £60,000 and a similar fee took McGhee to Pittodrie.

"It was a marvellous experience winning the League last season," says McGhee. "We know this is just the start of something big.



"I'm playing in a good team with so many talented players and I just hope I can continue to keep the goals coming. With players like Gordon Strachan and Willie Miller in support, I can't really go wrong."

Ferguson says: "Mark has accepted an awful lot of responsibility this season and he is thriving on it. His confidence is sky high and we are seeing the best of this player who has always had a lot to offer."

McGhee's lightning reflexes in the penalty-area brought him a goal in just 17 seconds against Airdrie at Broomfield in the third

League game of the season.

The ball was worked forward from the kick-off and after a swift bout of ping-pong soccer in the Airdrie penalty box he stepped in swiftly to drive a low shot past keeper Ernie McGarr. The Dons went on to score three more and McGhee revelled in the conditions.

His shielding of the ball and close control is on a par with even Kenny Dalglish and his dribbling skills highlight the fact that he was once a winger.

Watching Mark McGhee in this mood it is difficult to believe any team could overlook such amazing individual talent.

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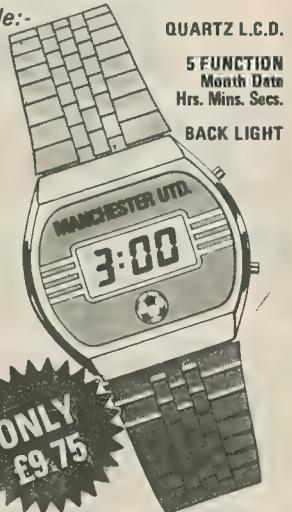
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LEAGUE PROMOTION

BOLTON IS BACK TO HIS BEST

SUNDERLAND left-back Joe Bolton has a reputation throughout football for his teak-hard tackling.

And plenty of right-wingers have known what it's like to feel the Bolton crunch during his 260-plus games for the Roker club.

But, midway through last season, Bolton paid the penalty for dropping below his usual high standards.

He was dropped by manager Ken Knighton, who bought Joe Hinnigan from Wigan to fill the number three shirt. And Sunderland went undefeated through the rest of the season to clinch promotion.

It was a situation which alerted several clubs who have always admired Bolton, but their interest came to nothing. Knighton made it very clear: Joe's not for sale.

And when Sunderland returned to the First Division in August, Bolton was the man back in possession of the left-back spot with Hinnigan now having to switch to the right side of the defence, in place of Steve Whitworth.

"It's great to be back, but I know I can't afford to relax with Joe and Steve breathing down my neck."

says Bolton.

"Joe did really well at the end of last season and I realise that he's going to be pushing me all the way for the first team place."

Even now, Bolton doesn't know the reason for his strange loss of form last season.

"It might sound strange, but I've got a theory that I had fallen into a rut and needed something to shake me out of it," he said.

"I was training and playing just as hard as ever before, but still didn't seem to reach my normal form.

"In the end, the thought of playing in the First Division again was probably just the spur I needed.

"I knew this was going to be an exciting season for Sunderland and I wanted to be involved."

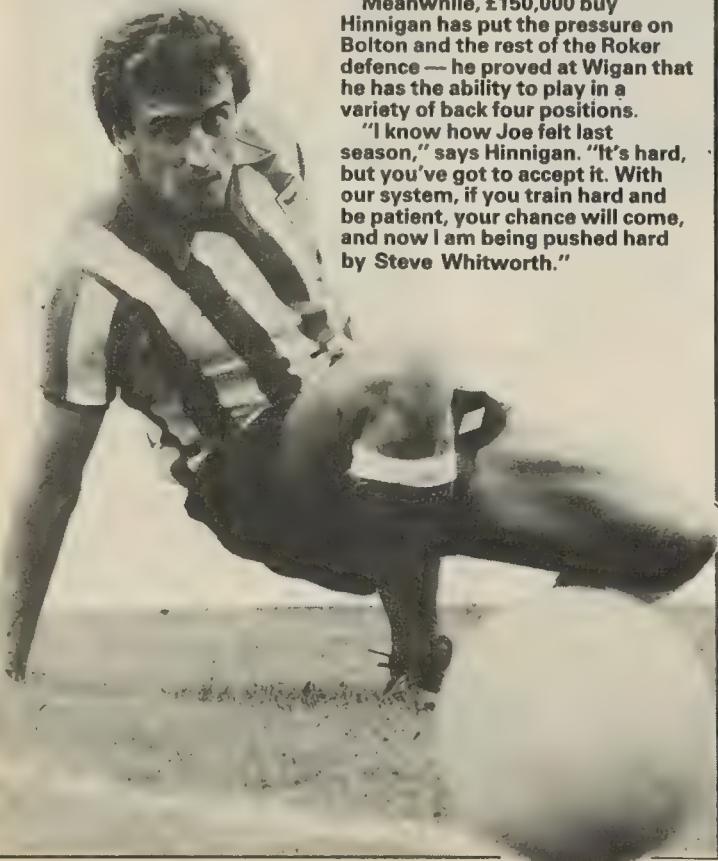
Finest

Bolton has been at Roker longer than anybody in the current team and regards the present squad as one of the finest he has been in.

"I've never known a Sunderland side with more skill than this one. All we're lacking now is a bit of top-level experience, which the younger lads will get in the next few months."

Meanwhile, £150,000 buy Hinnigan has put the pressure on Bolton and the rest of the Roker defence — he proved at Wigan that he has the ability to play in a variety of back four positions.

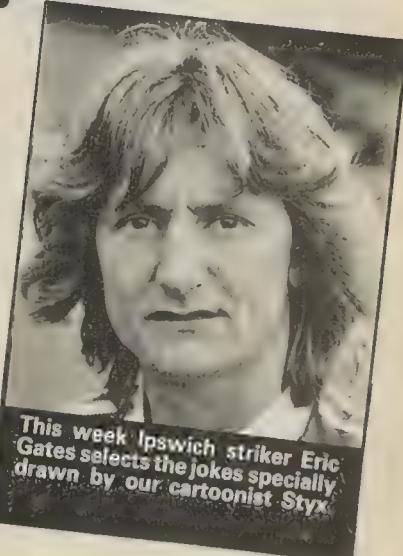
"I know how Joe felt last season," says Hinnigan. "It's hard, but you've got to accept it. With our system, if you train hard and be patient, your chance will come, and now I am being pushed hard by Steve Whitworth."



FOOTBALL FURNIES



"Let me guess. One of their full-backs took exception to your bugle."



This week Ipswich striker Eric Gates selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx



"I didn't like the way you rushed the goalie."



"There's a sight you don't often see — a referee being booked."



"And what moves are they practising this morning, coach?"



"All my childhood spent on the terraces dreaming what it would be like to be out here. Now I know."



"No, señor. We do not sack a manager who fails to win promotion out here. We fire him!"



"I think we're playing for a draw."



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TIGER & SPEED

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Chris Davies meets...

BEFORE the start of this season, Gordon Smith had played 15 League matches for Spurs, plus one as substitute. This does not average out to one game per month during Smith's year and a half at White Hart Lane, and he was quickly becoming the forgotten star of Spurs.

Things started badly for Gordon — and gradually got worse until earlier this year he had almost resigned himself to finding a career outside soccer.

Such are the ups and downs of football that the former St Johnstone and Aston Villa defender is now talking of a League Championship medal or Cup triumphs rather than becoming a computer operator or what have you.

"I pulled the hamstring in my right leg during training just a couple of days after I'd joined Spurs," he remembers. "I never really got over it. I came back and felt okay, but not 100 per cent. I played in a few reserve games and went to Japan on tour. I hoped that the summer lay off would do

"I had the operation in April and there was no guarantee it would be a success. I was very apprehensive and even thought about a career outside the game."

"After the op, I went away for the close season and wondered about the future. On holiday in France I tried some jogging, but it was very painful."

"I feared the worst when pre-season training started and had decided to take things very gently. Thank goodness, everything went well and I was able to run, turn, jump... do everything."

For the first time, Smith is able to show the fans why Keith Burkinshaw bought him.

"I was very aware that first impressions are the ones that count. The Spurs supporters must have been wondering about me. I wanted so much to do well, but simply wasn't able to. Now at least I can go out on the park fully fit."

"I've always had confidence in my ability. It was a question of fitness. Now everything's fine..."

It surprised a few people to see Spurs setting the pace in the early weeks of the season, even though Burkinshaw had added £1½m of striking talent in Garth Crooks and



Spurs' forgotten star

the trick.

"Instead, both hamstrings tightened. I played the first few games of last season, but couldn't run properly and I was dropped. Then, a lump developed on my left knee. One of the tendons was swollen and it was sore."

A home draw with Brighton was a disappointment for Spurs after their fine start.

Steve Archibald to his side.

"I used to look at the team-sheet last season and ask myself why we weren't doing better then. There's an awful lot of skill in the line-up

and I don't have to read out the names."

So why the difference?

"There was some straight talking during our pre-season tour of Scotland. We lost to Rangers and

Dundee United. We'd looked tremendous with the ball, but dreadful without it.

"I read in the papers about our 'poor defence' — people

inside the game know that a team defends from the front, not just at the back. We have three midfielders who are ultra-attacking players: Ossie Ardiles, Ricky Villa and Glenn Hoddle.

"We needed more effort all-round and now, as soon as we've lost possession, we start defending. This takes a lot of pressure off of the players at the back."

There's another 'newcomer' in the Spurs back-four this season — John Lacy, who has spent much of his time since his transfer from Fulham in the reserves.

"John must have been really depressed," says Smith. "He's two years older than me at 28 and would have been asking himself where he was heading. He was given a chance pre-season and has taken it."

Smith rightly points out that it's early days yet... with a lot of points to be won and lost.

"I honestly don't know if we can win the title because I've never been involved in a Championship-winning side, so I don't know what it takes."

"If we play all our games as we did the first three then we can do it. On the other hand, perhaps a Championship-winning team should beat a team like Brighton at home instead of drawing. As the manager said, we ought to be beating sides such as them."

"At least our attitude has been right and that's half the battle."



BRENDAN IMPROVES 300 PER CENT

In 1979-80 Brendan Phillips was, as he puts it, marking time at non-League Kettering. At the end of the campaign the Jamaican midfielder was sold to Boston for around £7,000.

Phillips, 25, played just two games for his new club during the pre-season build up.

"One of those matches was against Mansfield," he says. Shortly afterwards the Field Mill club put in a bid of £20,000 — three times what Boston paid — which was accepted.

"I was happy at Boston, but I have always had a hankering to play in the Football League again. It's good to be back and I'm looking forward to it tremendously."

Phillips, who has lived in the Coventry area since he was four, joined Leicester at 16 and spent three-and-a-half years at Filbert Street.

"Then came a string of moves," he says. "I played at Peterborough and it was there that I made my League debut against Chester. From there I drifted into non-League football with Burton Albion and Nuneaton Borough.

"Just before I signed for Nuneaton I had an offer to go to Brighton, but the deal fell through when Peter Taylor left and teamed up with Brian Clough at Nottingham Forest.

"I had three years at Nuneaton, but Kettering came in and at the time Mick Jones was the manager. He boosted my confidence and I joined the club purely and simply because I thought they had a team capable of getting into the League."

"I was only there two weeks when Mick Jones left for Mansfield and things turned sour.

Even so, I still played for the England non-League side in the Four Nations tournament in Holland during the summer.

"I play on the right-hand side of midfield. I'm a player who likes to attack and get forward. I don't score many goals, but I'm aiming to improve on that. My strengths lie in creating opportunities for other people.

"Mick Jones wanted me to join Mansfield and help to make openings for them. He felt I had the ability to climb higher and he was going to give me the chance to prove it.

Standards'

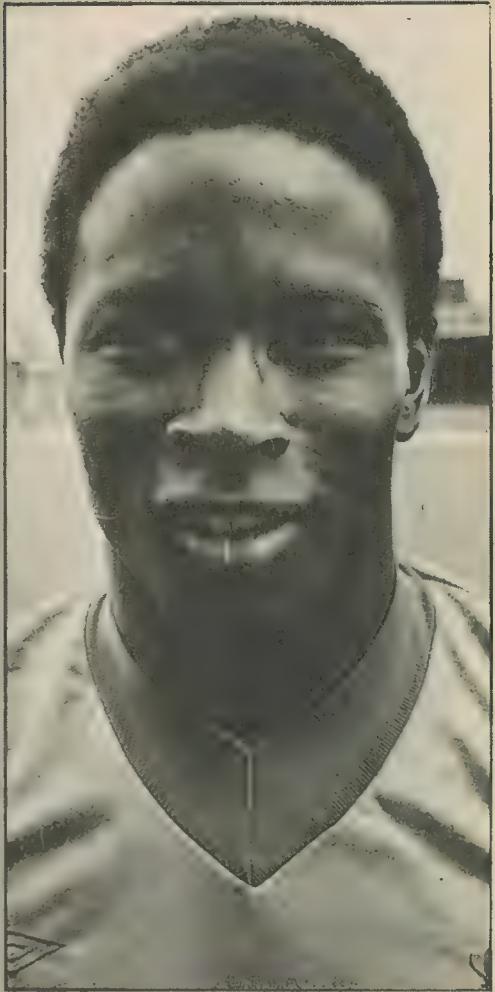
"I've known Mick both as a player and as a manager. I would say that he's demanding. He sets his standards high and he expects you to live up to them.

"My immediate aim is to do well at Field Mill and to repay the manager's faith in me. Obviously, I won't be satisfied with Fourth Division football. I want to play at the highest level. I feel I can do it.

"I haven't found any problems in adjusting to Fourth Division football. In fact, the opening games have gone well.

"I think we have a good set of players at Mansfield and a great chance of clinching promotion this season. It's a matter of knuckling down and getting on with the job.

"But I must admit that a lot of hopes are pinned on striker Terry Austin. He's a good goalscorer, as everyone knows."



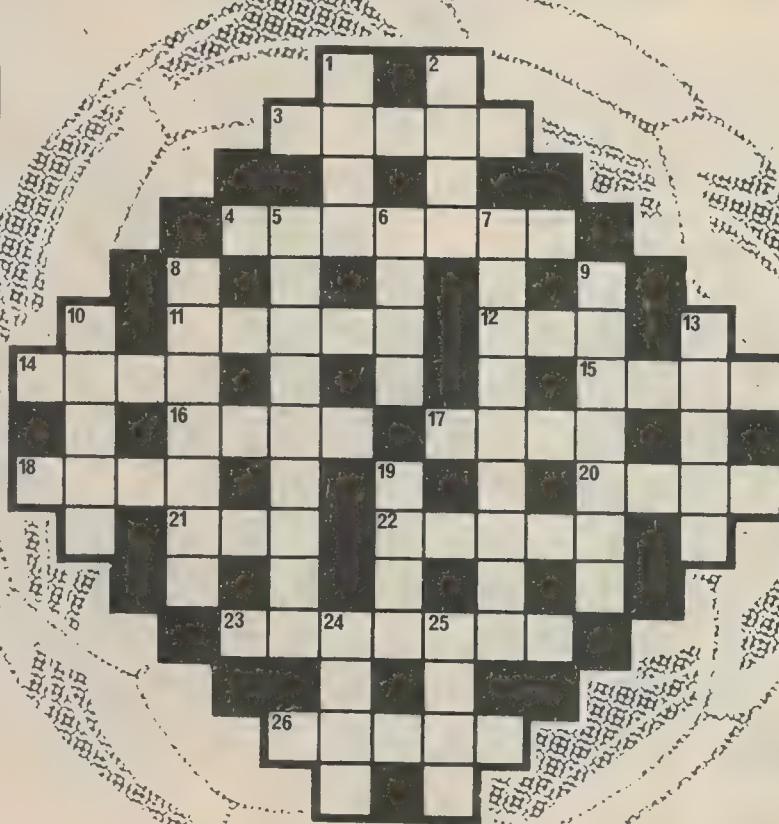
ON THE BALL CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- (3) — Wright played 105 times for England. (5)
- (4) Their original name was Royal —, Woolwich. (7)
- (11) Peter —; Blackpool midfield player. (5)
- (12) If Clyde, Raith & Ayr give LAY. What do Scunthorpe, Queens Park & Hearts give? (3)
- (14) Colin —; Birmingham City player. (4)
- (15) — Flanagan of Crystal Palace. (4)
- (16) Uncommon . . . like ten goals in a match! (4)
- (17) An arm or leg, for instance. (4)
- (18) Number of times Spurs have won the F.A. Cup. (4)
- (20) Flower from Preston nickname. (4)
- (21) -h-field Stadium (Clyde). The missing letters reversed. (3)
- (22) Some clubs who do not own their grounds have to — them. (5)
- (23) Means to. (7)
- (26) — Road; ground of Manchester City. (5)

DOWN:

- (1) Triumphs. (4)
- (2) — Curtis; Leeds United's Welsh striker. (4)
- (5) John —; Nottingham Forest striker (9)
- (6) Always from the team from Goodison Park. (4)
- (7) Steve —; Spurs striker. (9)
- (8) St. —; Birmingham City's ground. (7)
- (9) The F.A. Cup Final in 1923 was the first event held here. (7)
- (10) — Addison, Derby County's manager. (5)
- (13) Practised ability. (5)
- (19) Coventry City colour. (4)
- (24) A mate gets sorted out to make the sidel (4)
- (25) Ted MacDougall (Bournemouth) scored a record — goals in an F.A. Cup match v. Margate on November 20th, 1971. (4)



ANSWERS ON PAGE 44

LANGAN ON HIS TODD!

Playing alongside Colin lured David to Birmingham

DAVID Langan did not give it a second thought when Derby boss Colin Addison told him that Birmingham City wanted to sign him.

The 23-year-old Eire right-back said: "As soon as I knew they wanted me that was it. My mind was made up in about two seconds."

Birmingham boss Jim Smith made what many good judges consider could be the summer's shrewdest signing when he captured Langan for £350,000, peanuts in today's crazy transfer market.

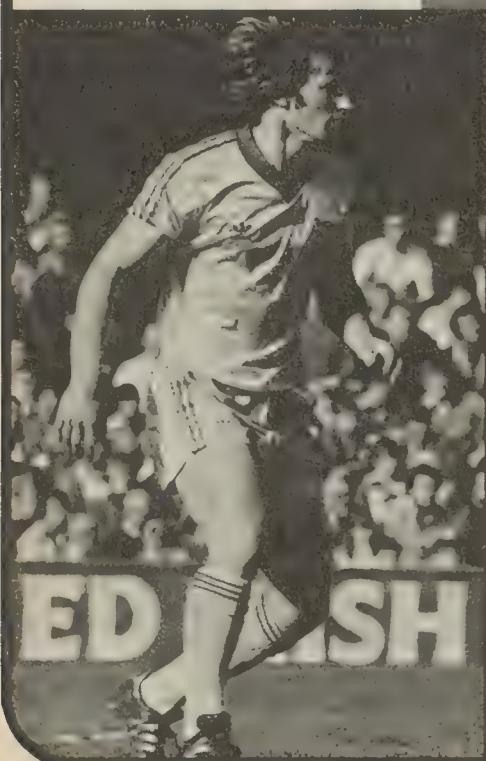
Addison did not want to lose him but explained: "I had to raise cash for players for more important positions to get us out of the Second Division."

Getting out of that Division is what Birmingham did last season, now they aim to build for an even brighter future at St Andrews.

Says Langan: "It's obvious that City are a club intending to go places. Manager Jim Smith has the right sort of ideas. The team is loaded with experience with the likes of Colin Todd, Archie Gemmill and Frank Worthington.



David Langan (right) didn't need to think twice when the opportunity to play alongside Colin Todd (left) in the Birmingham defence was first mentioned during the close-season.



"The defence, apart from Todd, is sure to be hard to beat. Jeff Wealands is a superb keeper and although he's only 25, Joe Gallagher has been playing first team football for seven years."

Langan, too, is a young man with plenty of experience. He made his big time debut three years ago and clocked up over 150 appearances for Derby.

The Dublin-born player is a full-back who loves to go forward. But that's not to say he neglects his number one job as a defender.

One reason Langan jumped when he heard Blues wanted him was the opportunity it would give him to play with Colin Todd.

He explained: "I've always had the greatest admiration for Toddy. When I arrived at Derby as a schoolboy he was an England star.

"He is such a complete defender and reads the game so well. He is cool in a crisis and used the ball to great advantage getting out of tight situations.

"Things just weren't the same at Derby when Toddy left. He gives Birmingham a solid base at the back.

'Buzzes'

"I'm an admirer, too, of Archie Gemmill. He really buzzes and thinks quickly, too. Archie always does the simple things and keeps the game on the move.

"And what about Frank Worthington? He's a magician. He has marvellous touch and really enjoys putting on a show. He can score goals too. Just look at his record."

Langan makes no bones about his ambitions. He confessed: "I want to be a winner. I want to be chasing League titles and going to Wembley for Cup Finals."

That isn't something Birmingham have been in the habit of doing, but Langan is convinced they are ready to break old habits and become one of the country's top dogs.

He said: "With the blend of experience and younger players who have enormous potential and talent like Mark Dennis and Alan Curbishley there is no reason why Birmingham can't give me the sort of things I dream about."

And with Langan's skilful approach there is no reason why the Republic of Ireland right-back can't make a huge contribution to a Birmingham success story.

GOAL-LINES

Send your letters to STEVE CARTER, GOAL-LINES, SHOOT!, IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford St., London SE1 9LS. U.K. readers receive £10 for the Star Letter — £4 for every other published. Overseas readers receive a special SHOOT T-shirt. Please state which size: small, medium or large. When writing to us please mention the two features you liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT! All letters must be exclusive to SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from Mark Hepworth of Barnsley, who wins our Special Prize of £10. He writes:

BAN EUROPE!

★ The idea to reduce the First Division by four teams is not practical and is damaging to the League. As well as meaning that four teams would suffer from reduced attendances due to them not playing the top teams, it suggests that European tournaments are more important.

Up to now the European Cup, the Cup-Winners' Cup and the U.E.F.A. Cup have only brought trouble to Britain. The 'domestic' competitions, as they are now termed, seem to be losing importance with the top players and managers as they have become mere stepping stones into Europe.

How many teams actually play in Europe each year from the English League?

The answer is about seven or eight, the rest are doomed to play only in the now supposedly 'inferior' home competitions, there is no wonder that gates have slumped at most English grounds.

The European competitions are not as difficult to win as they are portrayed to be; this is proved by the fact that Nottingham Forest (below) won the European Cup whilst only managing to finish halfway up the League.



Since the European tournaments began in earnest in the '60's there is no doubt that tactics in League matches have changed dramatically.

This was brought about by the system of ties being played over two legs, encouraging away sides to defend. Goal tallies have fallen (as have crowds) as boring, defensive football has driven them away.

This is why I believe that many true supporters are not really interested in happenings in Europe, they would prefer two teams both out with intentions of winning and entertaining the fans.

Ask any unbiased person who he believes to be the best team in England and nine times out of ten he would reply, "Liverpool", not the European Cup holders Nottingham Forest.

Overall, therefore, I believe that if European competitions were scrapped crowds would rise at 'ordinary' League matches as they would gain a new importance.

Players would not suffer too greatly as they would still be able to play against their foreign counterparts in international competitions.

After all, very few matches are more

boring than the last two European Cup Finals have been!

● Playing in Europe improves our top players, as well as being a financial boom. The blame for sterile soccer lies with managers afraid of the sack and too few really good players.

Help Scotland

AS you know Scottish football is in need of a new up-to-date stadium. The S.F.A. have tried their best, but they are short of funds.

I was wondering if SHOOT and its readers could help the fund by thinking of ways to raise money. Maybe SHOOT could organise a collection of badges, etc., to melt down.

DAVID HUNTER,
CARNOUSTIE.

● Putting a 1p levy on a pint of beer should do the trick in no time!

Sharing makes sense

I AM writing to compliment you on your recent article, "They're soccer crazy down South America Way".

Simon Inglis' light-hearted look at the really quite serious happenings at Latin American soccer games was equally interesting and amusing.

Where he mentioned the positive side of soccer down there, I thought we could learn from them in some things.

Certainly all-seated stadiums such as that of Aberdeen is positive, and I think the sharing of one ground between two big city clubs (such as A.C. and Inter Milan) would mean that they would be able to build more modern and useful stadiums with the finances being halved.

This would turn soccer back into a family sport like athletics, etc., where you don't hear of any crowd violence.

J. OWEN,
LYTHAM.

● A good idea in theory, but fans prefer their own stadium, despite the obvious advantages of sharing. Bristol Rovers didn't like using Ashton Gate even on a temporary basis.

Wrong picture

IN your 6th September issue you published a photo of Steve Mackenzie of Manchester City, but called him Ray Ranson.

SUSAN COATER,
MANCHESTER.

● City have enough problems without us adding to them! Apologies to all concerned!

Team to blame?

I FEEL sorry for Bill McGarry, the ex-Newcastle manager, following his sacking.

In an interview on the television he said that Newcastle did not have more than £200,000 to spend on new players so all he had was his squad from which he can only pick the best available.

If this team does not provide the goods then surely it is their fault and they should really be to blame.

SIMON BURROUGH,

BRISTOL.

● It was McGarry's squad, which he'd put together. After three years he had to take any credit... or blame.

After all, very few matches are more

"Bumbling" Leeds

HAVING had the misfortune to have been a Leeds supporter for the last five years I feel it is time Jimmy Adamson was made to answer for his actions even though he has now left the club.

There have been some worrying incidents at the club since his arrival.

Firstly, after having been forced to sell Tony Currie, Adamson seemed very reluctant to sign a replacement, scotching rumours that Alex Sabella would be bought, because "he's not the type of player we need".

A year later, however, Sabella, is "just what we have been looking for".

Adamson also sold one of our best players — Frank Gray — saying he had adequate cover — since when has that been a valid reason for selling a perfectly happy player?

Of course, since then the 'adequate cover' — Byron Stevenson and Peter Hampton — have both been given the chance to leave the club!

Two years ago Leeds United represented Jimmy Armfield's own brand of personality and entertainment; now they have been reduced to a bumbling, inept, boring group of nobodies — in the mould of their now ex-manager.

LOUISE ORMSBY,

LEEDS.

● The shadow of Don Revie still hangs over Leeds — as Adamson's successor will find.

Foreign first

YOUR recent article in SHOOT about our foreign players was good reading and I agree with the verdict that most have been good buys.

Having recently seen the skilful Raddy Antic playing for my local team Luton, I judged him to be outstanding value to the team especially as he was bought for a cheap transfer fee.

I think this season will see at least one team (perhaps Nottm. Forest?) winning a trophy with a foreign player in the side.

P. HUNNISSETT,

HOUGHTON REGIS.

● With more and more imports, soon it'll be unusual if the successful sides DON'T include a foreigner.

Pen-pals

I'M a 13-year-old French boy and I'd like to find a pen friend.

My favourite team is Nottingham Forest and my hobbies are collecting photos and souvenirs.

PIERRE-ALAIN BRIGANDAT,
3, RUE ALFRED NOBEL,
10120 ST. ANDRE LES VERGERS,
FRANCE.

I'M a 14-year-old Danish girl. I love English soccer. I support Southampton and Kevin Keegan.

GITTE ANDERSEN,
NYLANDSVEJ 11,
9900 FREDERIKSHAVEN, DENMARK.

Public criticism

I'D like to say how much I disagree with the SHOOT view which stated that managers who criticise players in public are out of order and bringing a bad name to football.

A manager SHOULD criticise a player if the situation arises. A perfect example is when Norwich's John Bond gave Justin Fashanu a real bashing in the Press after Fashanu had punched a player and was sent-off. He was also dropped for a number of games, but Fashanu has bounced back with extra commitment.

MARK BLAKE,
WEMBLEY.

● Perhaps both methods are correct... different players can respond in different ways.

Ask the Expert

Send your letters to Ask the Expert, SHOOT!, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. U.K. readers receive £2 for every letter published. Overseas readers receive a special SHOOT T-shirt. When writing, please state size: small, medium or large. While every letter is read, our Expert regrets he cannot reply to individual letters personally.

Ipswich goals

Can you tell me which First Division team both scored, and conceded, double-figures in a match within just over a year?

NEIL WHELAN,
WIDNES

● There have been a small handful down the years — mostly in the bygone past — but I can think of one in comparatively recent times, Neil.

That was Ipswich — who beat the Maltese club Floriana at home in the European Cup on 25th September, 1962, and were beaten 10-1 at Fulham in a League game on 26th December, 1963.

Luckless Law

Is it true that Denis Law once scored six goals in a game — and they were all disallowed?

ANDREW COLLISTER,
NORTHWICH

● They weren't disallowed by the ref, Andrew — they were all perfectly good goals — but what happened was that the game was abandoned through a waterlogged ground.

It was a Fourth Round F.A. Cup tie at Luton in January, 1961 and Law, playing for Manchester City, had scored all the goals in a commanding 6-2 lead when torrential rain forced a halt.

So, with the match declared null and void, poor Denis's goals didn't count for anything.

He even scored another when the match was played again — but the irony was that, this time, Luton won 3-1.

Quickest

Who scored the quickest-ever goal in an F.A. Cup Final at Wembley?

G. HOBMAN,
FALKLAND ISLANDS

● Jackie Milburn is the holder of that honour — he scored for Newcastle against Manchester City only 45 seconds after the kick-off of the 1955 Final.

Jim Roscamp also scored inside a minute for Blackburn against Huddersfield in the 1928 Final.

In the 1895 Final, though, John Devey is credited with scoring the only goal of the game for Villa against West Bromwich in just 40 seconds — but that was played at the old Crystal Palace ground.

Short Passes

Bobby Tambling is Chelsea's record League scorer — 164 goals between 1958 and 1970.

(DONAL O'MAHONY, Eire)

● Ipswich's record home gate is 38,010 — v. Leeds, F.A. Cup Sixth Round, 8th March, 1975.

(JAMES FOONG, Mauritius)

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THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONS

ASTON



BACK ROW (left to right): Terry Donovan, David Geddis, Mark Spence, Jimmy Hummer, Alan Evans, Terry Bullock.

MIDDLE ROW: Jim Williams (ph), Brian Little, Colin Gibson, Brandt, Roy McLaren (coach).

VILLA



SHOOT!

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

'THIS IS MY BEST VILLA TEAM'

says Ron Saunders

RON Saunders does not have much of a reputation for indulging in extravagant praise of teams or players. Aston Villa's manager prefers to get on with the game and leave the talking to others.

He was the same when he ran Oxford United, Norwich City and Manchester City, and he has retained that reputation in six years at Villa Park.

So it comes as something of a surprise to hear Saunders assessing the qualities of his current Villa side.

"I regard this team as the best of any I have managed," he declares.

He made the statement after Villa had swept Leeds United out of the League Cup and won three of their first four First Division games with the other, at Manchester City, drawn.

Aston Villa have flattered to deceive for so long that only their stunning start to the season persuaded Saunders to speak out.

"The longer we go on the better we will get," insists Saunders. "Everything is coming right. Our average age is 23, just the right age for the First Division."

Character

"I am impressed with the players' ability from Jimmy Rimmer, in goal (he let in only five goals in the first seven games), right through the team to number 11.

"Their character and endeavour is right. Attitude is everything and these players have conquered that, not just on the pitch but after matches as well.

"They put Villa and their own mates second only to their wives and sweethearts. That's the way it should be."

The Villa manager grins whenever it is suggested that he adopts a grim dictatorial attitude more suited to the French Foreign Legion than a football club.

To believe his critics is to underestimate the humour and warmth of the man, who has experienced more than his fair share of heartache and glory in a lifetime in football. Asked why he prefers not to sign foreign players, he grins and says: "Because they wouldn't understand when I abused them!"

Nothing will deflect him from believing that this young Villa side is destined to win honours this season — and nothing will shift the players from giving the manager their loyal support in an effort to restore the Midland club to its former greatness.

Saunders prefers not to single

out individual players to praise, but the Villa fans in bumper home gates at the start of the season needed no football expert to appraise the side.

They adore £500,000 signing Peter Withe, captured from New-

castle United in the summer, whose influence has been remarkable on the less experienced players alongside him.

Gary Shaw has gone on record as saying that Withe's arrival has played a major part in his own development. He scored five goals in the first six games and in only a year in First Division football the Birmingham-born teenager looks to have the class to achieve England status.

Saunders maintains that Villa's fluent attacking style has been adopted to suit the players at his disposal.

"They dictate everything," he says. "You can only play to the players' strengths and that's what we're doing. Fortunately, we're geared to play attractive football."

Ken McNaught, the club's powerhouse central defender, is convinced Villa's best is yet to come.

"Central defenders are supposedly not at their peak until about 27 or 28, so I'm still looking forward to the good years," says the 25-year-old former Everton player now in his fourth season at the club.

Dennis Mortimer, the captain, stresses the wish of players to co-operate fully on the pitch.

"Everyone in the team is prepared to work for one another, and the signs are that we are blending

into a good unit."

Mortimer singles out Withe for praise, saying: "He has learned a lot after playing for Forest and Newcastle, and has graduated from an average player to an excellent front runner."

Villa Park, as always, is throbbing with off the pitch activities this season.

The club runs discos for the over 25's and one of the most popular free services offered is the facility to supply supporters with players autographs in sheet form.

Villa's support is reflected in the buzzing of a telephone in one of the offices at the end of home matches. The call comes through

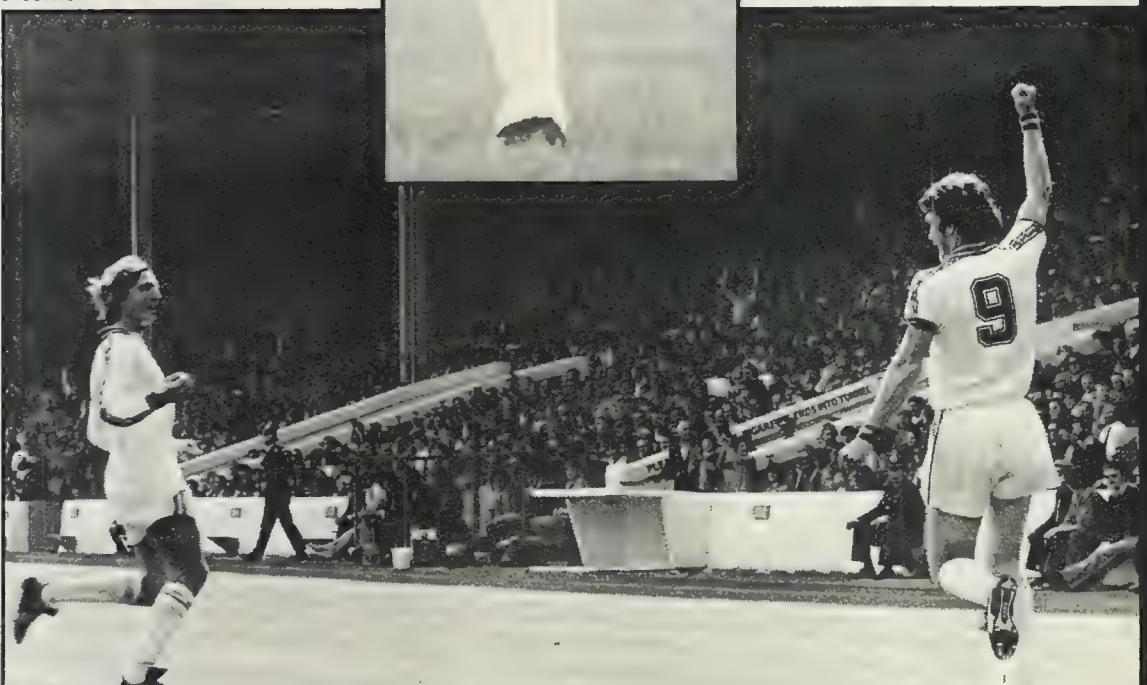
Gary Shaw, the teenage sensation currently rattling in the goals for Aston Villa.

regularly at 4.45 on Saturdays.

"What was the result please?" the voice requests. Carolyn Hopkins, Villa's attractive telephonist, passes on the information.

And the man rings off, settling back into bed in his Australian home.

Peter Withe (right) has brought a complete new dimension to the Villa attack. His arrival for £500,000 from Newcastle has helped them to a top four place.



AFTER years of struggling to establish Wolves back among the First Division elite, full-back Derek Parkin entered his 14th season at Molineux believing that he has finally succeeded in his aim.

Sixth place in the League last season was just the tip of the iceberg. The League Cup sits proudly in the trophy cabinet at Molineux and Wolves are back in Europe and ready to make an impact on an even grander scale this time.

There is no doubt in Parkin's mind as to the reason behind the rejuvenation of the club. "So much has changed for the better since John Barnwell and Richie Barker took over. They have given the club a completely new look," he says.

"I'm a firm believer in the kind of

clear-out and re-organisation these two achieved at Wolves last season. I think any club needs fresh thinking at some stage, and I'm certain Wolves had reached that situation.

"The spin-offs have been extraordinary. Quality players costing huge sums of money have arrived at the club and the Wolverhampton public have responded. I think that was what they were waiting for; proof the club really was prepared to look to the future and spend to get success. The whole town is

interested in a way it hasn't been for a good few years now."

Parkin says that the knowledge on the field of the men at the top at Molineux has been one of the key reasons for the club's improvement.

"The way the playing side has been re-organised has been tremendous. The attitude within the club has changed completely and that was badly needed. The morale was low and needed something to keep them on their toes.

"There is more competition for

places these days. No one is assured of a first team spot. They are not afraid to give youth its chance.

"It's been easier for the kids to come into a successful side, but that is one of the advantages of success. You can blood your youngsters, without destroying their confidence."

Parkin praises the set-up which Barnwell and coach Barker introduced. They have turned Wolves from a struggling First Division side barely worthy of the name into a side respected and

WOLVES PASS THE B-TEST

Parkin praises Barnwell and Barker



Richie Barker and John Barnwell (left) have earned the admiration of long-serving Wolves full-back Derek Parkin (above).

feared throughout the League.

"We are better organised," he says. "I'm certain that's why we have been able to achieve success again because of the hard work they have put into the club. Richie Barker is a brilliant tactician while John Barnwell is a good motivator and they complement one another in that respect.

"I've played for the club for 13 seasons and have never been out of the first team for long. I haven't improved as a player during the past five seasons, it's just that due to the pair's efforts everyone wants to play for the club.

"We have now achieved a higher level of consistency and that's what all clubs have got to aim for.

Epitome

"People are obviously going to point to our two-legged defeat in the League Cup by Second Division Cambridge. Obviously that was not exactly the epitome of consistency, and we were all disappointed at failing in our defence of the title at such an early stage.

"But in the League we have made a satisfactory start, and I am sure we can once again do well enough to guarantee ourselves a place in Europe, this time through a top five placing in the table.

"We have great experience at Molineux now, and John Barnwell and Richie Barker have shown us the way to getting good results by playing entertaining football.

"I hope I've got a few seasons left in the first team. I'm 32 now but I keep myself fit and don't feel I'm slowing up. I believe Wolves have a great future ahead of them, and it would be nice to be part of that for at least a couple more years."

LINE-UPS... RESULTS... SCORERS...

Saturday, August 23

CONTINUED

Fourth Division

DONCASTER (0) 0	
PETERBOROUGH (1) 4	(Slack, Syrett, Kellock, McVay)
	3,536
HALIFAX (3) 4	(Firth 2, Dunleavy, Allatt)
BURY (1) 2	(Whitehead, Johnson)
	1,861
LINCOLN (1) 2	(Hobson, Cunningham)
WIGAN (0) 0	
	3,939
MANSFIELD (1) 4	(Bird, Burrows, Austin, Caldwell)
HEREFORD (0) 0	
	3,103
ROCHDALE (1) 1	(Hilditch)
HARTLEPOOL (0) 1	(Brown)
	2,803
WIMBLEDON (1) 1	(Cork)
PORT VALE (0) 0	
	1,775
YORK (0) 0	
TORQUAY (0) 0	
	2,892

Scottish Premier

AIRDRIE (0) 0	
ABERDEEN (2) 4	(McGhee, Cowan, Jarvie, Scanlon)
	8,000
Airdrie:	McGarr, Erwin, Rodger, Walker, Marsh, Anderson, McKeown, Clark, Russell, Gordon, McGuire.
Aberdeen:	Leighton, Kennedy, McMaster, Watson (Considine), McLeish, Miller, Strachan, Cowan (Hawitt), McGhee, Jarvie, Scanlon.
CELTIC (0) 1	(Burns)
RANGERS (0) 2	(Bett, Miller)
	58,000
Celtic:	Bonner, Sneddon, McGrain, Aitken, MacAdam, MacLeod, Provan, Sullivan, McGarvey, Burns, McCluskey.
Rangers:	McCloy, Jardine, Miller, Forsyth (T), Jackson, Bett, Johnston, Russell (Johnstone), MacAdam, Redford, MacDonald (Cooper).

DUNDEE UTD (1) 1 (Bannon) ·
MORTON (1) 1 (Anderson) 5,339
Dundee Utd: McAlpine, Kirkwood, Stark, Bannon, Hegarty, Narey, Milne (Phillip), Sturrock, Payne, Addison, Ward (Reilly).
Morton: Baines, Wilkie, Holmes, Anderson, Orr, McLaren, McNeil, Rooney, Thomson, Hutchinson, Ritchie.

PARTICK (0) 0
KILMARNOCK (0) 1 (McBride) 4,000
Partick: Rough, Doyle, Whittaker, Gibson, Campbell, Welsh, Park, O'Hara (Jardine), Higgins, Watson, McDonald (Lapsley).
Kilmarnock: McCulloch, McLean, Robertson, Mauchlen, Clarke, McDicken, Gibson, Maxwell, McBride, Morrison, Street.

ST. MIRREN (1) 1 (Sommer)
HEARTS (1) 3 (Conn, Robertson (L), O'Connor) 7,553
St. Mirren: Thomson, Young, Becket, Richardson, Fulton, Copland (McCormack), Abercrombie, Stark, Sommer, Weir (MacDougal), Logan.
Hearts: Brough, Robinson, Jeffries, Boyd, Liddell, Kidd, Bowman, Conn (Gibson), O'Connor (Moore), Robertson (L), MacDonald.

Scottish First

AYR (0) 0	
STIRLING (0) 0	
	2,850
CLYDEBANK (0) 1 (McGorm)	
DUMBARTON (2) 4 (Gallagher, Blair 2, Coyle)	
	2,000
DUMFERMLINE (0) 0	
RAITH (2) 2 (Candidish, Steen)	
	4,200
FALKIRK (0) 1 (Spence)	
E. STIRLING (0) 1 (Lamont)	
	2,000
HAMILTON (1) 4 (McGrogan, Fairlie 2 (2 pens), McDowell)	
MOTHERWELL (1) 2 (McLellan, Kidd pen)	
	3,936

HIBERNIAN (2) 3 (McLeod 2 (2 pens), Paterson)
BERWICK (0) 0

ST. JOHNSTONE (0) 1 (McCoist)
DUNDEE (0) 0

C. Palace: Barron, Nicholas, Fenwick, Murphy (Sealy), Cannon, Gilbert, Leahy, Francis, Flanagan, Allen, Hilaire.

BRIGHTON (3) 3 (Foster, Robinson, Ward)
TRANMERE (0) 1 (Evans) 10,055
Brighton: Moseley, Gregory, Williams, Horton, Foster, Lawrenson, McHale, Ward, Robinson, Smith, McNab. Tranmere: Johnson, Perry, Mathias, Bramell, Edwards, Evans, Mungall, Kerr, Lumby, Beamish, Kelly.

BURNLEY (0) 0
WEST HAM (2) 2 (Goddard, Cross) 6,818
Burnley: Stevenson, Wood, Laws, Scott, Thomson, Rodaway, Cassidy, Dobson, Hamilton, Taylor, Cavener. West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin, Devonshire, Holland, Goddard, Cross, Brooking, Pike.

Scottish Second

ARBOATH (2) 2 (Harley, Downie pen)
FORFAR (1) 3 (Robb, Watt, Gillies)

1,431

BRECHIN (0) 1 (Paterson)
MONTRÉO (0) 1 (Taylor)

500

E. FIFE (2) 3 (Hird, Scott, Thompson pen)
COWDENBEATH (1) 2 (Marshall, Rowland)

635

QUEEN'S PARK (0) 0
CLYDE (1) 1 (O'Neill)

1,430

STENHOUSEMUIR (0) 1 (Hancock)
ALLOA (1) 1 (McCombe)

300

STRANRAER (0) 1 (Wilson)
OoS (0) 0

750

Tuesday, August 26

Football League Cup

(Second Round first-leg)

BIRMINGHAM (1) 2 (Ainscow, Gemmill pen)

12,163

BRISTOL CITY (0) 1 (Ritchie)

12,163

Birmingham: Wealands, Langan, Dennis, Curbisby,

Gallagher, Todd, Ainscow, Worthington, Bertschin,

Gemmill, Dillon.

Bristol City: Cashley, Sweeney, Whitehead, Tainton,

Gow, Merrick, Fitzpatrick (Hay), Ritchie, Mabbott,

Mann, Pritchard.

BOLTON (0) 0
C. PALACE (2) 3 (Murphy 2, Flanagan)

9,931

Bolton: Peacock, Graham, Burke, Wilson (Nowak),

Jones, Walsh, Gowling, Whatmore, Carter, Kidd,

Hogan.

Jerry Murphy (Crystal Palace).

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LINE-UPS... RESULTS... SCORERS...

CAMBRIDGE (1) 3 (Reilly 2, Christie)

WOLVES (0) 1 (Daniel pen)

Cambridge: Webster, Donaldson, Murray, Smith, Fallon, Gibbons, Street, Spriggs, Reilly, Finney, Christie.

Wolves: Bradshaw, Palmer, Brazier, Daniel, Hughes,

Berry, Hibbit, Carr, Gray, Richards, Eves.

CARLISLE (1) 1 (Hamilton)

CHARLTON (1) 2 (Robinson, Walker) 2,673

CHESTERFIELD (2) 3 (Crawford, Bonnyman, Moss)

OXFORD (1) 1 (Lythgoe) 4,858

EVERTON (1) 3 (Eastoe, Latchford, McBride)

BLACKPOOL (0) 0 20,156

Everton: McDonagh, Gidman, Lyons, Wright, Ratcliffe, Stanley, McMahon, Hartford, Eastoe, Latchford, McBride.

Blackpool: Hesford, Gardner, McEwan, Greenall, Williams, Doyle, Noble, Harrison, Morris, Fletcher, Hockaday.

MANSFIELD (0) 0 BARNSLEY (0) 0 6,294

MIDDLESBROUGH (3) 3 (Shearer 2, Proctor)

IPSWICH (1) 1 (Wark) 14,459

Middlesbrough: Platt, Craggs, Bailey, Johnston, Ashcroft, Natrass, Proctor, Hedley, Hodgson, Shearer, Armstrong.

Ipswich: Cooper, Mills, McCallie, Thijssen, Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhran, Mariner, Gates, O'Callaghan.

NEWPORT (1) 1 (Vaughan)

NOTTS COUNTY (1) 1 (Hunt) 6,708

Newport: Plumley, Walden, Relish, Bruton, Oakes, Tynan, Vaughan, Lowndes, Gwyther, Aldridge, Cunningham (Elsey).

Notts County: Avramovic, Benjamin, O'Brien, Kelly, Kilcline, Richards, McCulloch, Masson, Christie, Hunt, Hooks (Mair).

OLDHAM (2) 3 (Keegan, Kowenicki, Stainrod) PORTSMOUTH (0) 2 (Gerner, Leidlaw pen) 5,251

Oldham: McDonell, Hoolickin, Blair, Kowenicki, Clements, Hurst, Wyke, Futter, Stainrod, Keegan, Atkinson.

Portsmouth: Mellor, McLoughlin, Bryant, Brisley, Aizlewood, Garner, Gregory, Laidlaw, Showers, Tait, Rogers.

PRESTON (0) 1 (McGee)

WIGAN (0) 0 8,028

Preston: Tunks, Cameron, McAteer, Burns, Baxter, O'Riordan, Bell, Coleman, Elliott, Houston, McGee.

Wigan: Brown, Curtis (Quinn), Fretwell, Gore, Methven, Davids, Cullen, Wright, Houghton, Hutchinson, Whittle.

Q.P.R. (0) 0

DERBY (0) 0 11,244

QPR: Woods, McCreery, Gillard, Waddock, Wicks, Roeder, Hazell, Shanks, Langley, Currie, Burke.

Derby: Jones, Emery (Richards), Buckley, Powell (S), Osgood, Ramage, Clarke, Powell (B), Biley, Swindishurst, Emson.

SHEREWSBURY (0) 1 (Biggins)

NORWICH (1) 1 (Fashanu) 5,536

Shrewsbury: Wardle, King, Leonard, Turner, Griffin, Keay, Tong, Lindsay, Biggins, Dungworth, Petts.

Norwich: Hansbury, Bond, Downs, Barham, Forbes, Powell, Woods, Fashanu, Royle, Padden, Bennett.

SOUTHAMPTON (2) 4 (George 2, Holmes 2)

WATFORD (0) 0 16,659

Southampton: Katalinic, Golac, McCartney, Williams, Watson, Nicholl, Keegan, Channon, George, Holmes, Baker.

Watford: Steele, Henderson, Harrison, Patching, Sims, Bolton, Blissett, Postkett, Rostrom, Train, Jackett.

SWANSEA (0) 1 (James (L))

ARSENAL (0) 1 (Stapleton) 17,036

Swansea: Stewart, Marusik (Toshack), Rushbury, Mahoney, Stevenson, Phillips, Giles, James (R), James (L), Craig, Robinson.

Arsenal: Jennings, Devine, Sansom, Talbot, O'Leary,

Young, Hollins, Sunderland, Stapleton, Price, Rix.

WBA (1) 1 (Barnes)

LEICESTER (0) 0 13,810

WBA: Godden, Trewick, Statham, Moses, Wife, Robertson, Robson, Brown, Regis, Owen, Barnes.

Leicester: Wallington, Carr, Gibson, Peake, May,

O'Neill, Goodwin, Melrose, Young, Wilson, Smith (Henderson).

WIMBLEDON (2) 2 (Cunningham, Leslie)

SHEFF. WED (1) 1 (Owen) 3,549

Wimbledon: Goddard, Brown, Perkins, Galliers, Smith, Cunningham, Davies, Downes, Leslie, Cork, Driver.

Sheff. Wed: Bolder, Blackhall, Grant, Smith, Pickering,

King, Owen, Johnson, Lowry, McCulloch, Curran.



Everton's Peter Eastoe gets above Peter Noble of Blackpool.

Bell's Scottish League Cup

(Second Round, first-leg)

ALBION (1) 1 (Campbell) ST. MIRREN (0) 2 (Hamilton (og), Richardson) 14,000

DUNDEE (1) 2 (Fletcher 2) ARBROATH (0) 0 3,745

Wednesday, August 27

Football League Cup

(Second Round, first-leg)

ASTON VILLA (1) (Morley) LEEDS (0) 0 24,238

Aston Villa: Rimmer, Swain, Gibson, Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Bremer, Shaw, Withe, Cowans, Morley. **Leeds:** Lukic, Cherry, Greenhoff, Flynn, Hart, Madeley, Chandler, Thomas, Connor, Sabella, Graham.

BLACKBURN (0) 0 GILLINGHAM (0) 0 7,316

Blackburn: Arnold, Branagan, Rathbone, Kendall, Keeley, Fazackerley, Brosterston, Crawford, Gomer, McKenzie, Speight.

Gillingham: Hillyard, Sharpe, Ford, Overton, Weatherly, Crabb, Bruce, Duncan, Westwood, Henderson, Richardson.

BRADFORD (0) 1 (Campbell) LIVERPOOL (0) 0 16,232

Bradford: Smith, Podd, Dolan, Robertson, Jackson, Cooper, Wood, Staniforth, Campbell, McNiven, Chapman.

Liverpool: Clemence, Neal, Kennedy (A), Thompson, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Fairclough, Case, Johnson, McDermott, Souness.

CARDIFF (1) 1 (Bishop) CHELSEA (0) 0 6,549

Cardiff: Gratiot, Grapes, Lewis, Campbell, Pontin, Dwyer, Bishop, Kitchen, Stevens, Ronson, Buchanan (Thomas). **Chelsea:** Borota, Wilkins, Rose, Bumstead, Droy, Chivers, Britton, Fillery, Johnson (Lee), Walker, Nutton.

LINCOLN (0) 1 (Shipley) SWINDON (0) 1 (Rollings) 4,940

MANCHESTER UTD (0) 0 COVENTRY (0) 1 (English) 31,656

Manchester Utd: Bailey, Nicholl, Albiston, McIlroy, Jovanovic, Buchan, Coppell, Greenhoff (Sloan), Ritchie, Macari, Thomas.

Coventry: Blyth, Coop, Roberts, Blair, Dyson, Gillespie, Van Gool, Daly, Thompson (McDonald), English, Hunt, Farley.

NEWCASTLE (1) 3 (Rafferty 2, Shoulder pen)

BURY (1) 2 (Butler, Johnson) 8,666

Newcastle: Carr, Kelly, Barton, Boam, Davies, Leaver (Cartwright), Koenen, Hibbitt, Shoulder, Rafferty, Nicholson.

Bury: Forrest, Howard, Whitehead, Waddington, Kennedy, Halford, Mullin, Madden, Butler, (Hilton), Johnson, Farley.

Fourth Division

STOCKPORT (0) 1 (Sword)

HALIFAX (0) 1 (Firth) 2,487

TRANMERE (2) 3 (Lumbay 2, Evans)

ROCHDALE (0) 1 (Esser) 1,828

Saturday, August 30

First Division

ARSENAL (0) 2 (Price, Stapleton)

TOTTENHAM (0) 0 54,045

Arsenal: Jennings, Devine, Sansom, Talbot, O'Leary, Young, Hollins, Sunderland, Stapleton, Price, Rix. **Tottenham:** Kendall, Smith (Taylor), Hughton, Yorath, Lacy, Perryman, Ardiles, Archibald, Villa, Hoddie, Crooks.

ASTON VILLA (0) 1 (Shaw)

COVENTRY (0) 0 20,050

Aston Villa: Rimmer, Swain, McNaught, Evans, Gibson, Bremer, Mortimer, Cowans, Morley, Withe, Shaw. **Coventry:** Blyth, Coop, Gillespie (Thomas), Dyson, Roberts, Blair, Daly, Hunt, Haywood, Hateley, English.

BRIGHTON (1) 1 (Robinson)

WBA (0) 2 (Regis, Owen) 18,162

Brighton: Mosley, Gregory, Williams, Horton, Foster, Lawrence, McHale (Ryan), Ward, Robinson, Smith, McNab. **WBA:** Godden, Trewick, Statham, Robertson, Wile, Moses, Robson, Owen, Brown, Regis, Barnes.

IPSWICH (2) 4 (Brazil, Wark, Butcher, Mariner)

EVERTON (0) 0 20,879

Ipswich: Cooper, Burley, Osman, Butcher, Mills, Thijssen, Wark, Muhran, Gates, Mariner, Brazil. **Everton:** McDonagh, Gidman, Lyons, Wright, Ratcliffe, Stanley (O'Keefe), McMahon, Hartford, McBride, Latchford, Eastoe.

LEEDS (0) 1 (Hart)

LEICESTER (0) 2 (O'Neill, Henderson) 18,530

Leeds: Lukic, Greenhoff, Hart, Madeley, Cherry, Flynn, Chandler, Sabella, Hamson, Connor, Graham. **Leicester:** Wellington, Williams, O'Neill, May, Gibson, Goodwin, Peake, Wilson, Young, Melrose (Grecock), Henderson.

LIVERPOOL (1) 4 (Hansen, McDermott, Kennedy (A), Johnson)

NORWICH (0) 1 (Bennett) 35,315

Liverpool: Clemence, Neal, Kennedy (A), Thompson, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Case, Johnson, McDermott, Souness. **Norwich:** Hansbury, Bond, Downes, Barham, Forbes, Powell, Woods, Fashanu, Royle, Paddon, Bennett.

MANCHESTER UTD (0) 1 (Jovanovic)

SUNDERLAND (0) 1 (Brown) 51,498

Man. Utd: Bailey, Nicholl, Jovanovic, Buchan, Alston, Macari, McIlroy, Coppell, Thomas, Greenhoff, Ritchie. **Sunderland:** Turner, Hinnigan, Allardyce, Elliott, Bolton, Arnott, Chisholm, Marangoni, Brown, Hawley, Cummins.

MIDDLESBROUGH (1) 2 (Mackenzie (o.g.), Janikovic)

MANCHESTER C (2) 2 (Reeves, Mackenzie) 15,761

Middlesbrough: Platt, Craggs, Ashcroft, Natrass, Bailey, Johnston (Janikovic), Hedley, Proctor, Hodgson, Shearer, Armstrong. **Man. City:** MacRee, Ranson, Booth, Caton, Reid, Mackenzie, Daley, Henry, Power, Bennett, Reeves.

NOTTM FOREST (2) 5 (Wallace 2, Birtles 2, Robertson (pen))

STOKE (0) 0 21,915

Nottn Forest: Shilton, Anderson, Lloyd, Needham, Gray, O'Neill, McGovern, Bowyer, Wallace, Birtles, Robertson. **Stoke:** Fox, Evans, McAughtrie, Dodds, Johnson (P), Richardson, Johnson (P.A.), Bracewell, Sheldon, Randall, Chapman.

SOUTHAMPTON (3) 3 (Baker, Channon, Keegan)

BIRMINGHAM (0) 1 (Worthington) 21,683

Southampton: Katalinic, Golac (Hebbard), McCartney, Williams, Watson, Nicholl, Keegan, Channon, George, Holmes, Baker. **Birmingham:** Wealands, Langan, Dennis, Curbishley (Lynex), Gallagher, Todd, Ainscow, Worthington, Bertschin, Gemmill, Dillon.

WOLVES (1) 2 (Gray, Richards)

C. PALACE (0) 0 20,601

Wolves: Bradshaw, Palmer, Brazier (Clarke), Daniel, Hughes, Barry, Villasanz, Carr, Gray, Richards, Eves. **C. Palace:** Barron, Lovell, Fenwick, Murphy, Cannon, Gilbert, Leahy (Sealy), Francis, Allen, Flanagan, Hilaire.

Friday, August 29

Third Division

FULHAM (0) 0

HULL (0) 0

4,592

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Peter the postman's gone... FROM GOALKEEPING TO GOAT-KEEPING!

GUESTS and goats, potatoes and hens... delivering the post around the island every day and scoring goals for the village team after church on Sunday.

This is the new world, on the faraway Hebridean Isle of Mull, in Argyll, Scotland, of 38-year-old former England international Peter Bonetti, whose long and golden goalkeeping career with Chelsea ended with his 600th League appearance in May, 1979.

Less than 18 months later, he and his family — wife Frances and their four children, Suzanne, Kim, Nick and Lisa — are happily and totally immersed in Scottish surroundings, 600 miles away from the London where, for 20 years, Bonetti was one of football's finest and most popular performers.

Example

During a wonderful career, in which he was always a model professional and constant example to all young players, he made a total of 729 first team appearances for Chelsea.

He was in their side that won the League Cup in 1965, the F.A. Cup in 1970 and the European Cup-Winners' Cup in 1971. He starred in Chelsea's promotion teams of 1963 and 1977, and played for England in seven full internationals.

Long before the time came to leave Stamford Bridge, Bonetti had decided that a future in the game as a manager or coach was not for him.

"It's far too hazardous and demanding a job for a family man like me," he reasoned.

Then, two summers ago, Frances Bonetti visited Mull while on a Scottish holiday. She fell in

love with a guest house that was up for sale in the village of Fionnphort.

She rang Peter in London that night and within weeks they had decided to take the plunge into a completely new way of life in the guesthouse and farming business.

Last season, Bonetti was on Dundee United's books, playing ten first team games for the Scottish Premier Division club and a dozen in the reserves. In dark mid-

winter, it meant him leaving Mull on Friday afternoon's ferry and getting home at Sunday lunchtime.

He was on a one-season contract with United. Now Peter has retired from the game, but says: "If a Scottish club was suddenly stuck for a goalkeeper, I'd be glad to help out. Really, though, I'm quite happy to be playing now for the village team on Sundays.

"I play up-front, and have got a few goals. It's a nice change after being at the other end of the pitch all through my career... and it's fun."

The Bonetti's guest house is open all the year round. Until August Peter helped Frances serve



A different way of life up in the Hebrides for the Bonetti family. Left to right: Lisa, Suzanne, Peter, Kim, Nick and Frances.

breakfast and evening meal to their visitors, and for the rest of the day they were busy outdoors.

"We've had two fields full of potatoes this summer and I've dug about 3,000 spuds."

In August came the one cloud on Bonetti's new horizon. That was when he got the full-time job of island postman.

Some of the islanders said it should not have gone to an 'outsider'. But a Post Office spokesman explained: "He was the best candidate of the five we interviewed. He got the job on merit."

Peter the postie delivers mail around the island each day and is out in his van from 8am to 6pm. He says: "The position was advertised, and I applied because I need the work if we are to stay here.

"My wife now looks after the guest house side of things, and I lend a hand at weekends."

'CARLISLE ON THE WAY BACK'

says Trevor Swinburne

CARLISLE United goalkeeper Trevor Swinburne reckons that after finishing sixth in the Third Division in successive seasons, it will be a case of third time lucky for his club.

"We are as good as any team in the Third Division," says Swinburne. "I'm sure we can go up this term if we prove that we've learned the lessons of the last two seasons."

"In 1978-79, we were up among the leaders, occupied a top three spot and were in with a sound chance of promotion. Then we went through a bad spell in the run-in and lost our opportunity."

"Last season it took us a while to put our game together, and

although we finished strongly we had left our final effort too late to get among the top three. So the obvious thing for us this season is to obtain the right results consistently over the next few months instead of playing in fits and starts."

Says Trevor: "I'm ambitious, with a wish to play in a higher class of football. Several of our players have left in the past two years, and I thought I would be one of them, but that's behind me and I just want to concentrate on doing my best for Carlisle."

The 1980-81 term will be Swinburne's fourth with Carlisle, following his eight seasons at Sunderland, where he served an

apprenticeship in the days of star Sunderland 'keeper Jim Montgomery.

"I learned a lot from watching Jim, and later, at Carlisle, I was grateful for the help and advice I got from first team goalkeeper Allan Ross. Although he knew I was his rival for his position he taught me all about helping my defenders and also gave tips on angles and how to cope in different situations — his assistance in every way was tremendous."

"It was a great thrill for me to be named the Carlisle Player of the Year by the Carlisle Supporters Club, the local newspaper, and the sportswriters in the club Press box — these presentations were a highlight of my career."

For Swinburne, it will be a further tremendous boost if Carlisle can move up into the Second Division in May.

"Promotion would make it possible for me to realise my big ambition. I want to be in a higher grade, and I believe our standard of football is good enough."



AN ANNUAL SPORTS FEAST

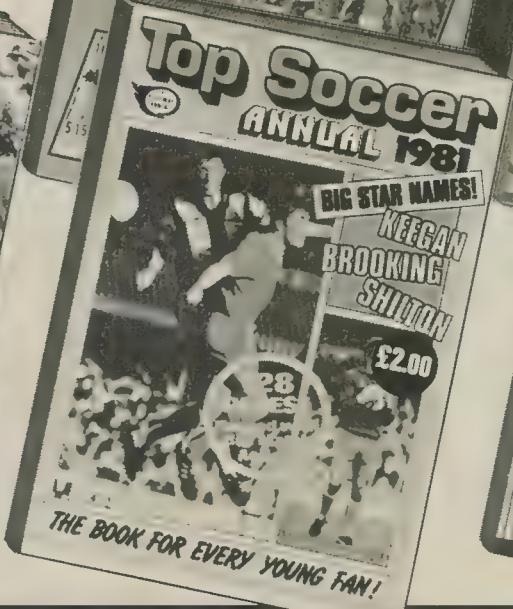
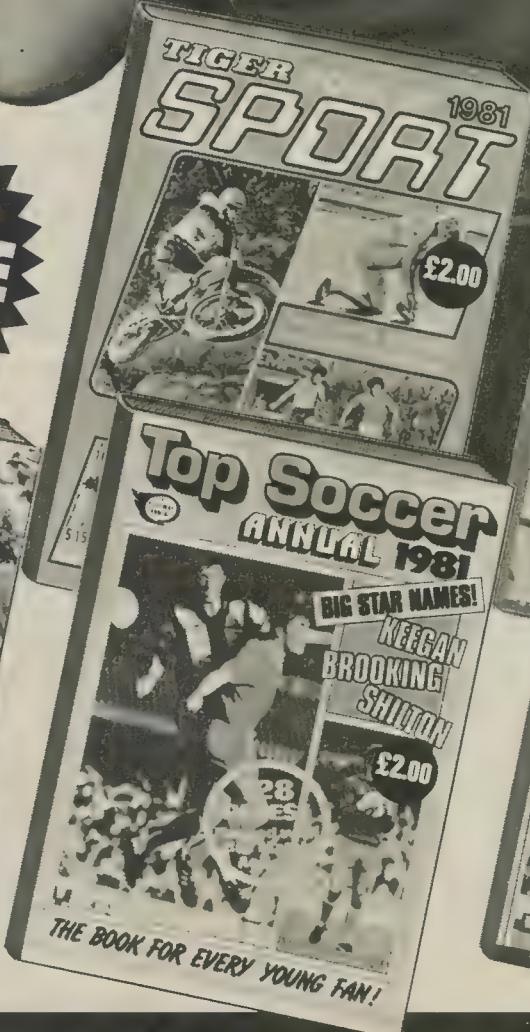
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ALL
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ALL EYES were on Alan Ball and Martin Peters as the new season got under way.

The two former World Cup stars — both members of the England team that won the trophy in 1966 — had dropped into the lower Divisions to try and revive the fortunes of Blackpool and Sheffield United respectively.

But it was a couple of less well-known names — Frank Burrows and Colin Murphy — who hogged the early season headlines.

A Burrows inspired Portsmouth set the Pompey Chimes ringing out along the South Coast again as the famous old Fratton Park club marched to the top of the Third Division.

And Murphy provides evidence that the ghost of Graham Taylor can be exorcised by steering his rebuilt Lincoln to the head of the Fourth Division.

Both are doing marvellous jobs on obviously limited resources. They went in boldly where others feared to tread and seem to be getting some reward for enterprising management.

Burrows is working wonders at a Portsmouth club in danger of going broke only a few years ago. And former Derby boss Murphy is making a big impression at a club where Graham Taylor — now in charge at Watford — is still idolised.

Ball and Peters have every reason to be satisfied at the steady starts Blackpool and Sheffield

United have made. And Mike Bailey, at Charlton, should be doing handstands of joy.

For the sleepy Valley is coming back to life under the former Wolves star, who got the job a year ago — then had it taken off him before assuming command again when Andy Nelson left the club.

Fulham have not allowed a mass transfer request from all the first team to affect performances on the field and they have also made a solid start.

The Fulham players carried out their threat of demanding transfers en-bloc because they were unhappy at the new bonuses offered following relegation from the Second Division.

"The players put the requests in — and were turned down flat. As far as I'm concerned that's the end of the matter," said manager Bobby Campbell.

"I just hope it will be allowed to die there and that we can get on with the job of playing football. They say there is no such thing as bad publicity, but I don't agree. I'm fed up seeing the name of Fulham in the papers for all the wrong reasons."

Reading are suggesting that last season's effort, which put them in with the Third Division pacemakers for most of the campaign, was no flash in the pan by getting away well.



But Swindon and Colchester — two fancied to do really well — made poor starts. So did a Northampton team who finished last season's Fourth Division campaign in superb style.

Down at Plymouth Bobby Saxon claimed from the moment he took over that it would take time to get things running right. And it seems he is now doing that after the satisfactory way Argyle have started.

Ron Harris, another 'veteran' who has left the big-time to move down the scale as player-coach at Brentford is enduring a few ups-and-downs.

Southend's flying start in the Fourth Division can be a surprise to no one. The biggest mystery to people in the game is what they are doing down there anyway.

With managerial heads higher up the scale already starting to roll some of the brighter boys in charge of Third and Fourth Division clubs will be under scrutiny.

Leading candidates to be lured elsewhere must be Len Ashurst, of Newport, Peter Morris, of Peterborough, Brian Godfrey, of Exeter

BURROWS & MURPHY early season headline makers



Frank Burrows (left) and Colin Murphy (above) have guided their teams to a good start. Sheffield United have made a fine start, thanks to goals from old-hand Bob Hatton (below, scoring against Oxford).

and Torquay's Mike Green.

No doubt by the time our next look at the Third and Fourth Divisions is published, there will have been changes at some clubs.

There will be changes in League positions, as well. We intend to take a regular look at life in the lower Divisions to keep you fully informed about what is happening down there.

So stick with SHOOT — the small club's friend!





All change for Kennedy at Station Park

If you have to start your soccer career again then Station Park, Forfar, probably isn't the obvious first choice. But Stewart Kennedy, the ex-Scotland 'keeper who was freed by Rangers at the end of last season plumped for Forfar Athletic for two simple reasons.

First, Forfar came up with the best of the half dozen offers put to him when it became known he was leaving Ibrox. And second, he was convinced Forfar had ambition and determination to improve their standing in the Scottish game — just like Stewart himself.

At 30, a mere infant in Scottish goalkeeping terms, he feels he has a lot of useful football left in him.

Disappointment

The free transfer from Rangers came as a disappointment — though not too much of a surprise.

"They had four 'keepers on the books and it was inevitable that one was likely to be released. I hoped it wouldn't be me as I'd just got over a bad injury and felt Rangers might give me another season to prove myself."

In fact, 18 months ago torn ligaments in his left knee threatened to bring an abrupt end to Kennedy's career.

Most people remember Stewart as the 'keeper who let in five goals at Wembley in his fifth international appearance for Scotland when England won 5-1 in 1975.

Fewer care to remember the instinctive saves, the brave dives and breathtaking leaps that

inspired Rangers to the first Premier Division title the same season — breaking the nine-year Celtic monopoly of the Championship.

"Wherever I go Wembley 1975 is always brought up — especially by the Press which seemed to forget then and still forgets now the ten other players in that Scotland side. Not all of them were playing blinders."

Rangers fans had an opportunity to remember Stewart's goalkeeping skills when Forfar went to Ibrox for the second-leg of their Bell's League Cup-tie at the end of August.

Not only did he save a Sandy Jardine penalty kick — although the referee ordered a retake which Jardine then missed — but Kennedy defied drives from Davie Cooper and Ian Redford and headers from Colin McAdam before two further penalty kicks gave Rangers a flattering margin of victory.

Since Stewart gave up full time soccer he has started work as a sales rep with a Grangemouth electrical firm. Driving from his Kincardine home to Forfar becomes a bit of a chore.

In fact, in the first week of the season he was involved in a car accident — "the other driver's fault" — which could have been serious.

However, if Forfar were to get promotion for the first time in their history then British Rail might be persuaded to reopen the local station. If history can be made once, why not twice?

YOU ARE THE REF
 Compiled by CLIVE THOMAS

1

The ball is kicked towards an attacker who is outside but an opposing defender unintentionally deflects it to an attacker who is in an offside position. Should you (a) award an indirect free-kick, (b) a direct free-kick or (c) take no action?



2

A player's boot has split just before kick-off. He asks you to delay the start until he has changed his boot. Should you agree to his request?



3

You decide that ground conditions are unfit for play but the home manager and groundsman state the ground is playable. Do their decisions over-rule yours?



4

From an indirect free-kick inside the penalty-area, the ball strikes a goal post, hits a defender and rebounds into goal. Should you award (a) a goal or (b) a goal-kick?



5

Towards the end of the game a player asks you how much time there is to go. Should you (a) ignore his request, (b) tell the player or (c) award an indirect free-kick against him for ungentlemanly conduct?



ANSWERS

1. Take no action (c). 2. No. 3. No. 4. A goal (a). 5. Tell the player the actual time left (b).



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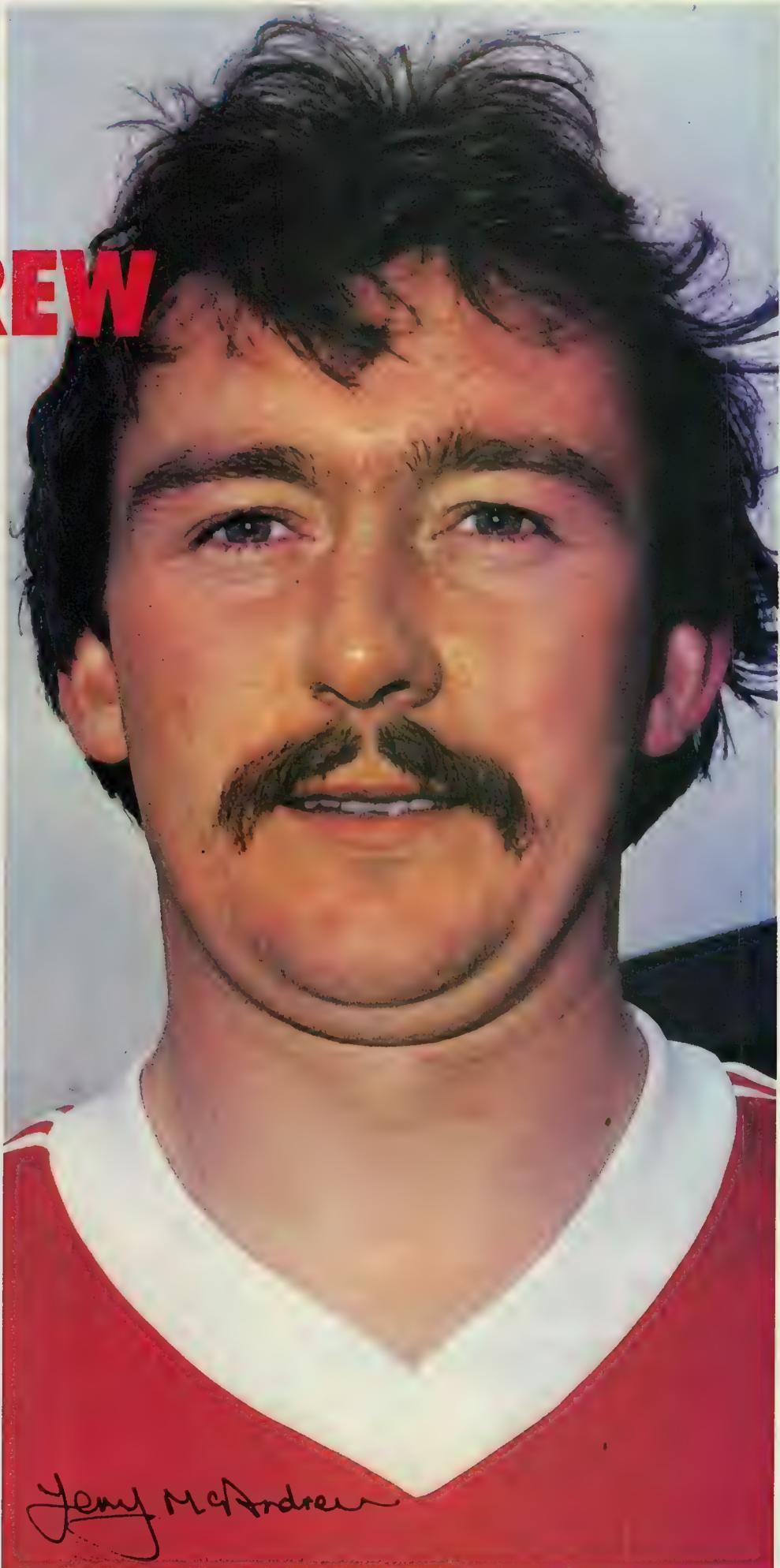


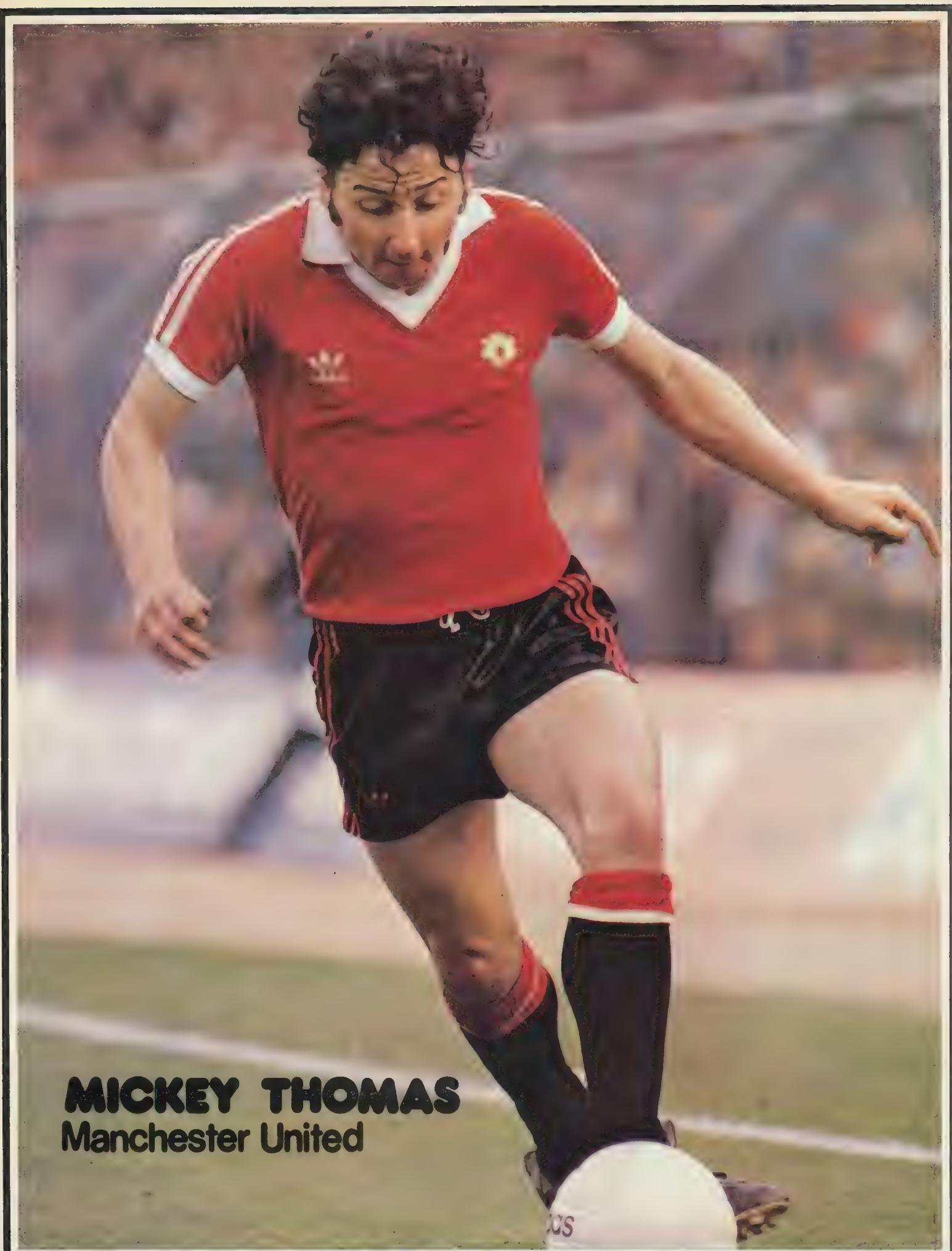
Master "Full hide leather
upper combined with tradition-
al Master styling".

FOCUS ON TONY McANDREW

Middlesbrough

FULL NAME: Tony McAndrew
BIRTHPLACE: Glasgow
BIRTHDATE: April 11, 1956
HEIGHT: 5ft 11ins
WEIGHT: 12st 6lbs
PREVIOUS CLUB: Vancouver Whitecaps
on loan
MARRIED: To Sylvia
CAR: Sunbeam GLS
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: Middlesbrough
Sports Gazette
FAVOURITE PLAYER: John Craggs
MOST PROMISING TEAM-MATE: Mark
Proctor
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Celtic
FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD: Bobby
Murdoch and Harry Hood
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Rugby
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: There are
quite a few
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: v Sheffield
Utd the season they were relegated to Div.
Two. I scored three goals
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing in the
Quarter-Finals of the F.A. Cup in 1978 to
Orient
FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS: Haven't noticed
FAVOURITE FOOD & DRINK: Beef stroganoff
and white wine
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES AND DISLIKES:
Driving, music/Cheats and liars
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Canada
**FAVOURITE T.V. STAR, MALE AND
FEMALE:** Kenny Everett, Lisa Goddard
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF: Playing
badminton
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Barry Manilow,
Donna Summer, Diana Ross
AFTER-MATCH ROUTINE: Take my time
changing, a few drinks and a chat with the
lads then go home
BEST FRIEND: I have two or three good
friends
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: George
Wardle and Ian MacFarlane. They were the
first people to really push me and work on
my game
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Scottish
Youth caps
PERSONAL AMBITION: To win a major
honour with Middlesbrough and to have
security for my family
**IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAY JOB WOULD YOU
DO?** Don't know
**WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD
YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?** The person who
hands me the Cup Middlesbrough have just
won





MICKEY THOMAS
Manchester United

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THE THIRD
TIME I'VE
SLIPPED...

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GOING
WRONG?

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ENOUGH ON OUR
FEET!

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LIKE AN
ICERINK!

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FEET ARE
KILLING
ME!

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SEEM TO
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THE END OF HOUSEMAN?

ARgentina's small but super-talented World Cup winger René Houseman has often figured on this page for the wrong reason — his refusal to train regularly and his habitual disappearances to play in a kick-around with friends rather than in a League match with Huracan. Houseman has made only a handful of appearances this season, and he's now been arrested and charged with assaulting a girl in a night club.

René, 27, hit the big time with the Argentine national team at the age of 17, representing his country in the 1974 and 1978 World Cups.

But unless the winger moves from Buenos Aires and starts a new life in different surroundings, it looks as though we've sadly seen the end of a talented career.

THE early-season sensation in France has been the impressive form of Lyon's new striker Nikolic, signed from a Yugoslav Second Division side during the close season. Nikolic hit the top of the goal charts by hammering in five goals in his first four outings as Lyon surprisingly shot to the top of the table.

TOP REFS FOR TOP GAMES

FOR 1980-81 the East German F.A. have published a list of 41 referees who can be called on for First Division games. Last season only 19 officials were in charge of the different First Division games and only nine of them had games totalling ten or more.

On other days they acted as linesmen and in this way the top whistlers control the top games — which is as it should be.

In England, referees do a Division One game one week and perhaps a Division Four game the next, which does not help achieve the consistency of decisions that English clubs and players are constantly asking for.



SOCcer buffs who like facts and figures at their fingertips will be happy to learn that Brian Glanville has updated his History of the World Cup. His first book appeared in 1973, but a new edition is now available in hardback published by Faber and Faber (£8.50).

REPORTS from Mexico claim that Argentine manager Juan Carlos Lorenzo has agreed to take charge of Atlanta.

Lorenzo rose to fame as boss of tough sides like Lazio, Atletico Madrid and Boca Juniors, but has had a dismal year in his new job as manager of Racing.

But there's a smile back on Lorenzo's face now — his move to Mexico will net him a signing-on fee of £130,000 plus £8,500 a month in salary.

LAURIE'S BEST

REAL Madrid manager Vujadin Boskov describes Laurie Cunningham's recent form as "some of the best performances I've ever seen in football," and adds "without Laurie and Trevor Francis there was no way England were going to win the European Championship."

In the meantime, Boskov is still undecided about who will take over the role of sweeper now that Pirri has departed to Mexico.

In theory, Uli Stielike would seem the logical choice.

But Boskov wants Stielike's drive and aggression in midfield and is currently trying Vicente Del Bosque and newcomer Gallego at the back of the defence.



DECISION OVER-RULED

A FEW weeks ago I reported that the Barcelona directors had lifted their ban on referee Emilio Guruceta, black-listed by the club for giving a penalty against them in 1968. But at Barcelona's Annual General Meeting the season-ticket holders not only over-ruled the decision, but ordered the club to ban Guruceta for life!

NEWLY-promoted French club Auxerre, having failed to sign the Polish international centre forward Andrzej Szarmach because he was not yet 30, have signed a contract with him dated October 4th . . . his 30th birthday.

Bans banned

A MEMBER of the lower House of Congress has introduced a bill that would make it impossible for the Brazilian F.A. and the local Leagues to ban players for disciplinary reasons.

The reasoning behind the bill is that the Constitution gives everybody a right to work and that is infringed when a player is banned, say, for six months or a year for assaulting a referee.

But the Press didn't take kindly to the matter. They viewed it as another instance of politicians meddling with football just because football is very popular and gives them the exposure they covet so much.

"If yachting were as popular as football, we would have these people legislating about yachting every day," said one newspaper. "And our yachtsmen wouldn't have won the two gold medals they did in the Olympic Games."

News flashes

- The players of Fortuna Dusseldorf and German pop singer Hans Lotzsch have cut a disc to celebrate their victory in the German F.A. Cup: 'Fortuna Europa Cup Song'. The best seller of all football records is still 'Cinco-tres' . . . which sold more than a million back in 1962 in Portugal and marked Benfica's European Cup Final win over Real Madrid by 5-3.

- The first German player to sign as a part-timer in the new Danish set-up is 26-year-old Klaus Amrath who has joined the Copenhagen club KB 1903. Formerly with Borussia Mönchengladbach, Amrath was released for a bargain price of only £50,000 and was on trial for the Danes in the Toto Cup.

- East Germany have been very active in the area of international Youth football, always having their eyes on the U.E.F.A. Youth Tournament. Since 1954 they have played 350 Youth internationals against 29 different countries and been unbeaten in 236 of them.

- Russian First Division clubs are still making goodwill trips to African countries and the latest to tour there are ASK Odessa. In an international tournament they beat the Angola Army team known as 1st August 2-1 in the Final. The Mozambique Army club Matchedje took third place.

- There was a surprise in the 39th Russian Cup Final in Moscow. Dynamo

- Tbilisi, winners in 1976 and 1979, were expected to carry off the trophy, but an early goal by Vitalij Staruchin gave Schachtjor Odessa the upper hand. Adding another goal through Vitas Chintschagashvili, Schachtjor cruised home, 2-1, with Dynamo getting a consolation goal in the last minute. This was Schachtjor's first success in the Cup.

- Horst Hrubesch (below) the Hamburger SV centre-forward who scored both goals for West Germany in the European Championship Final against Belgium, has



decided to retire after three more years. "Professional football is very well paid," he said, "but you have absolutely no family life. I will have enough to give up in 1983, and I won't change my mind, no matter how much I am offered to go on playing."

- The Brazilian football weekly Placar interviewed Jupp Derwall, manager of West Germany, recently. Herr Derwall told them: "Argentina will be the biggest danger to us in 1982. Maradona is, maybe, better than Pele." Published underneath was an editor's note . . . DID JUPP DERWALL EVER SEE PELE?

- Rudi Kargus who played in goal for Hamburger SV in the European Cup Final last May has been given a free transfer by his club, but he has not attracted any attention and is currently without a club and unemployed.

- Claudio Coutinho (below) Brazil's ex-manager, considers that a football team should be



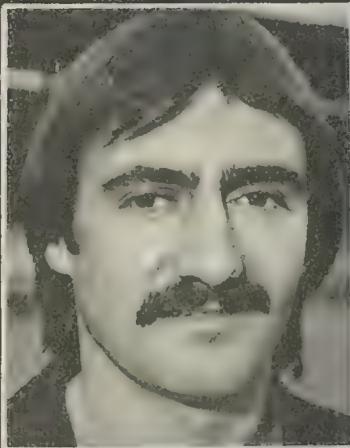
reduced to only 10 players. "There is no space to play in the modern game," he says.

- The 26-match First Division programme in East Germany stops for a winter break between December 14 and February 20. During that time the national team will tour South America for three weeks, playing internationals in good weather.

- Italian centre-forward star Paolo Rossi has rejected five offers from clubs in South Africa, who, suspended by FIFA, could play him during his two-year ban in Italy. His club, Perugia, have to pay him under their regulations in order to claim a transfer fee for him, when, as expected, he joins Juventus in 1982.



KITCHEN IS CARDIFF'S LAST HOPE



PETER Kitchen, the headline striker who almost disappeared from football last season, is alive and well — forging his career all over again at Cardiff City. It is a transfer that has given both him and his new club fresh hope.

He was almost submerged at Fulham: a 16-month spell of misery at Craven Cottage when, after a £150,000 move from Orient, he all but disappeared from the side.

"I just wasn't the style of player manager Bobby Campbell wanted," he says.

"I do all my work from 25 to 30 yards away from goal. I am, if you like, a goal poacher. Bobby Campbell wanted me covering a lot more of the pitch; more mobile, working hard in defence. It wasn't my game and I couldn't play it."

"We never had any kind of row, but it became perfectly plain last season that I wasn't this kind of player. Now I'm at Cardiff, I'm determined to show that I can still do the job I'm best at — putting the ball into the back of the net."

There is one curious twist to Kitchen's arrival at Cardiff. It is largely because of a Welsh international striker who Cardiff missed — former Merthyr schoolmaster Gordon Davies — that Kitchen is now operating on his former Fulham team-mate's own doorstep.

"I had an injury right at the start of last season and Gordon cracked in a hat-trick to give Fulham a sensational win at Birmingham on the opening day. From that moment, the place was his. He scored 12 goals in the first 15 matches and won his place in the Wales squad."

Peter's career at Fulham was going backwards from that moment. He played just four games for the club.

Cardiff need Kitchen as much as he needs them. Their strong, efficient defence kept them well clear of relegation problems last season — but an attack that tossed away chance after chance ensured a mid-table ceiling on their

Ambitions

The club of Wales' capital city had opened up highly hopeful of a First Division return after the previous season's eighth place but a drought in front of goal killed off any prospect. They finished woefully with one more goal than they had gained points.

"I'm sure that I can change that record once I have complete match fitness back again," promises Kitchen. "I know that I still have the finishing touch and I can point to the 26 I scored at Fulham in reserve team football last season."

"In fact, it looks quite promising at Ninian Park. We have a tall striker, Gary Stevens, who is strong in the air. We also have a very quick front player who can open up space in Ray Bishop."

Kitchen, at £120,000, is Cardiff's last throw in the transfer market for some time to come. Manager Richie Morgan knows that the kitty is empty: his team needs goals and must find success to get going again. Kitchen has to be the answer to a great many problems.

Ambitions

"I think I proved a point by signing for Cardiff," he says. "Frankly, I could have earned myself bigger wages by returning home to Yorkshire and joining Rotherham — but I'm not ready for that. With due respect to Rotherham, my ambitions at 28 go higher than Third Division football."

"Cardiff have a chance of becoming one of the top clubs in the game. It's had success, it has traditions, there is a population big enough to support the First Division. There is still a lot more I want for myself out of the game."

There is one extra bonus for Kitchen at Cardiff: the prospect of first ever taste of European football. "We are intent on regaining the Welsh Cup this season and winning back our once almost traditional place in the Cup-Winners' Cup. Peter's arrival can only send our chances soaring," says defender Phil Dwyer.

"That suits me down to the ground," responds Peter. "I scored two goals in my first two games for the club, and am confident I can keep going."



Ray Wilkins
WRITES
FOR YOU

'Don't for

competition is not particularly good and I was hoping for a long run in the tournament.

Coventry came for a draw at Old Trafford and won. We played well in the first-half at Highfield Road, but Andy Blair's goal shortly after the interval killed us off.

I was driving back to Manchester after that defeat and heard on the radio that Watford had beaten Southampton 7-1. My wife, Jackie, remarked that the announcer must be joking!

While the League Cup often claims many First Division scalps, not even Watford themselves could have hoped for such a result. Watford have a Cup fighting tradition and beat United in the same competition at Old Trafford not so long ago. It's amazing how some clubs, like Watford, so often produce Cup shocks. I don't know what gets into them!

Relegated

When I was with Chelsea we were hammered 7-1 and it isn't a very nice feeling. There should be no such result in professional football. We were playing Wolves at Molineux in the season we were relegated — 1975 — and at 1-1 we hit the crossbar and had a goal disallowed.

With 20 minutes to go we were 7-1 down and I could honestly see us losing 15-1.

Funnily enough, John Phillips, our goalkeeper, played a blinder and was in no way to blame for the scoreline. I'm sure Southampton felt the same way as we did — dumbfounded. I'm also sure their journey home was the most unpleasant of their careers . . .

In the League, I believe the Championship will be far more

BELow... "I still use Liverpool as the yardstick for success in the League."



blame injuries poor start'

open than last season, when it was a two-club race between ourselves and Liverpool. After five games this time round United had five points and the yardstick I used was that we were only one behind Liverpool.

I'm sure when the title is decided they'll still be the side to overcome, so while we were four points behind the leaders, Ipswich, I used Liverpool as the 'target'.

Mind you, Ipswich are looking good. I'd say their style was the nearest to the total football displayed by Holland in the early 70's.

Perhaps that shouldn't be surprising with Frans Thijssen and Arnold Mühren in midfield, but I like the way they work the ball from the back to the front men. A few years ago Ipswich too often by-passed the midfield; now, it's their strength.



MAIN PICTURE . . .
"Andy Ritchie is one of the most promising youngsters around."
ABOVE . . . "Eric Gates (left) deserved his England call-up."

Over the past year Eric Gates has improved in leaps and bounds. His England call-up was just reward for the hard work he's put in. Eric doesn't seem capable of scoring an ordinary goal. Every time I see him scoring on T.V. he's hammering in a 30-yard thunderbolt or an acrobatic volley. I particularly like the way he turns away from his marker. Eric is also very fast and shields the ball well under pressure.

Terry Butcher has emerged as the leading candidate to take over from Dave Watson. He and Russell Osman are a formidable defensive partnership, although I wouldn't underestimate the help given by captain Mick Mills.

Early indications this season are that goals could be up . . . and crowds down. I get the impression First Division clubs have been working hard on their finishing and we've seen some entertaining games with plenty of goals. It's easy to say "blame the defence", but some credit must be given to the goalscorers.

I was astonished to see some of the attendances, especially in the League Cup. I think the idea of having the Second Round played over two-legs is a disaster (Watford would disagree!) and the sooner we revert to a straight knockout through the Cup the better.

Unemployment

I suppose the depression throughout the country, with record unemployment, must be reflected in soccer . . . but 31,656 for United v Coventry and 35,315 for Liverpool v Norwich must sound warning bells.

Leeds, our opponents this Saturday, had just over 12,000 to see them go out of the League Cup to Aston Villa, when there were chants of "Boycott for manager."

I feel sorry for Jimmy Adamson. Leeds have some outstanding players and from what I've seen have played quite well without luck.

It's a sobering thought for all those clubs who are struggling that this time last year Ipswich were in all sorts of trouble and were even bottom of Division One for a spell.

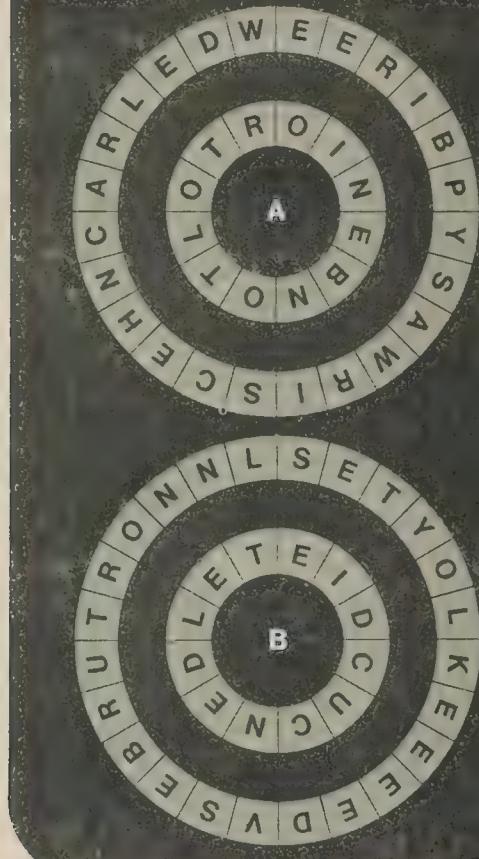
There's a fair bit of rivalry between United and Leeds, which stems back to about ten years ago when the clubs had some epic Cup battles, as well as being rivals in the Championship race.

It's a shame Gordon McQueen will miss Saturday's match, but I hope to be there to add to Leeds' problems for the afternoon, at least.

Join me again in a fortnight,

Raymond W/T

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Find the correct starting points in the outer, intermediate and inner circles of these frames, and, moving on to alternate spaces in a clockwise direction, spell out the names of 16 famous football clubs. Can you find them all? Check with our answers below!

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Inner circle: Celtic, Dundee
Outer circle: Dundee, Exeter
Intermediate: Burnley, Stoke
Frame A: Derby, Leeds, Burnley, Stoke
Frame B: Arsenal, Crewe, Ipswich, Norwich
Inner circle: Fulham, Oldham
Outer circle: Bolton, Oldham



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PLAYING FOR PORTSMOUTH IS JUST LIKE LIVERPOOL FOR BRISLEY



THE famous old chimes of Pompey are starting to ring out, loud and clear. From years of depression and a dangerously close flirtation with extinction, Portsmouth are fighting to consolidate their comeback.

Promotion from Division Four last season, a place as joint leaders after the first few games this season in Division Three; it revives hopes of more successful times at Fratton Park, after years in the doldrums.

Portsmouth's start this season raised hopes of another successful season. Of course, no one was being kidded after just a handful of early games. But, as midfield man Terry Brisley pointed out: "There is a feeling that something is stirring down here."

"It's a place full of footballing tradition and the people are dying to have a successful side to support. The possibilities are endless if we reach Christmas in the top six or eight, in the Third Division table."

The facts support Brisley's optimism. Last

season, as Pompey pushed for promotion, crowds of 23,000 and 21,000 were seen packing into Fratton Park. The season's average was around the 15,000 mark — quite phenomenal by Fourth Division standards. Away matches like the local derby with Aldershot, produced near 12,000 crowds. No wonder few sides in Division Four wanted to see Pompey go up at the end of last season!

But go up they did, and judging by their start to the new season, another step towards the First Division was eminently possible.

"We lost only one of our first six matches, and we have also beaten Oldham in the League Cup," said Brisley. "No one has given us real trouble and I'd say without doubt we've got the players to become a Second Division side."

Brisley knows only too well that having the right players is only half the battle. Portsmouth have flattered to deceive before now and that's why no one at Fratton Park is keen to discuss promotion prospects.

'Enthusiasm'

An East End lad, Brisley played all his career with London clubs before moving to Portsmouth. Orient, Millwall and Charlton were his previous homes, but he says: "I've never known such enthusiasm from such a wide range of people, as you find at Portsmouth."

"The possibilities for this club are endless. The catchment area is immense and although we were getting gates of around 20,000 for some matches last season, there were still loads of people around the town saying they wouldn't come to watch us again until we really proved ourselves. If we do well this season, the gates could be way above 20,000 for almost every home game."

Brisley is still astounded by the immense part football plays within the local community. "You go out in the town and everybody wants to talk to you about the game. Even if they don't recognise you, you can hear them discussing the club. I reckon I know what it's like to be a Liverpool player now, although they have to share their city with Evertonians!"

"At Portsmouth, you eat, sleep and drink Portsmouth F.C. It's the sort of atmosphere and interest you find in a non-League club town when the tiny locals are playing in the F.A. Cup. That atmosphere is here all through the season

and it's great to be part of it."

"The new generation of Pompey folk have stayed loyal to the club. Kevin Keegan might be playing for an attractive Southampton side less than 20 miles away, but that doesn't make the slightest difference. These fans wouldn't go anywhere other than Fratton Park."

Brisley says the management of Frank Burrows has been a major reason for the Pompey revival.

"I'm not trying to boost the guy in any way, but I have to say he is the best coach I've played under."

"I can't believe anyone in the League works harder than him, either. He is straight talking and immensely popular with the crowd. He's got something going down here, alright."

At 30, Terry Brisley welcomes the enthusiasm he's found at his new place of work. He had a miserable time with unambitious Charlton, his last club, but has now found the other end of the scale . . . a club that wants to go places, a revival for Brisley and certainly a comeback for Portsmouth.

SOCER MONTHLY

Ordered your October Soccer Monthly yet? Well, if not, don't delay. This exciting issue contains:

- Kenny Dalglish's striking vow
- Pat Jennings, a legend in his own goalmouth
- Paul Mariner of Ipswich and England
- Mike Channon discussing his partnership with Kevin Keegan
- Why soccer in the USA is on the slide
- How Celtic and Rangers plan to regain their upper hand
- Derek Parlane's view of life at Leeds United
- Osvaldo Ardiles — Spurs' most consistent player
- Wales World Cup preview
- Rafael Villasanz, the League's first Uruguayan.

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Portsmouth fans invade the pitch after promotion last season.

TAKE A BREAK—IT'S

Quiz Time

TRUE OR FALSE?

LEAGUE CUP

1. Everton's Peter Eastoe (below) began his League career with Wolverhampton Wanderers.



The Football League Cup Second Round second-leg ties were played recently. See if you can answer the following questions.

1. The shock of the round was undoubtedly Watford's incredible 7-1 victory against Southampton at Vicarage Road. What was the half time score?
2. Tottenham knocked Orient out on a 2-1, 3-1 or 4-1 aggregate score?
3. Did Bristol Rovers eliminate York City on the away goals rule or on penalties?
4. Which Brighton defender was sent-off during their 4-2 away win at Tranmere Rovers?

PAST STARS...

1. Did Celtic manager Billy McNeill (below) spend a spell as player-manager of Aberdeen before taking over at Parkhead?



2. Bobby Moore, the former West Ham and England captain, played a record-breaking 108 times for England.

3. Australia qualified for the 1974 and 1978 World Cup Finals in West Germany and Argentina respectively.

4. Former Manchester United superstar George Best won the European Footballer of the Year award in 1968.

ON THE BALL ANSWERS

ACROSS:

- (3) Billy. (4) Arsenal. (11) Noble.
(12) Cue. (14) Todd. (15) Mike. (16)
Rare. (17) Limb. (18) Five. (20) Lily.
(21) Was. (22) Lease. (23) Intends.
(26) Maine.

DOWN:

- (1) Wins. (2) Alan. (5) Robertson.
(6) Ever. (7) Archibald. (8)
Andrews. (9) Wembley. (10) Colin.
(13) Skill. (19) Blue. (24) Team. (25)
Nine.



2. Is Birmingham City's Mark Dennis (below) a full-back or striker?



2. Did Frank McLintock, Peter Storey or Peter Simpson (above), skipper Arsenal to their 1970-71 League and F.A. Cup Final double?

3. Ronnie Clayton, former captain of England, spent his entire League career with which club?

4. Former Glasgow Rangers' star Jim Baxter gained 24, 34 or 44 full international caps for Scotland?

...AND PRESENT

1. Queens Park Rangers' Mickey Walsh was transferred recently to which Portuguese club for a fee of around £170,000?

T	L	O	P	C	S	N	G	C	G	M	L
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E	R	U	D	A	B	H	O	E	A	S	D
E	C	L	N	T	V	M	S	R	R	C	O
G	L	M	E	B	D	E	O	N	C	M	P

TRACE-A TEAM

The names of 11 past or present Aston Villa players are spelt out in this frame in straight lines, either horizontally, vertically or diagonally and forwards or backwards. See how many you can spot.

ANSWERS:

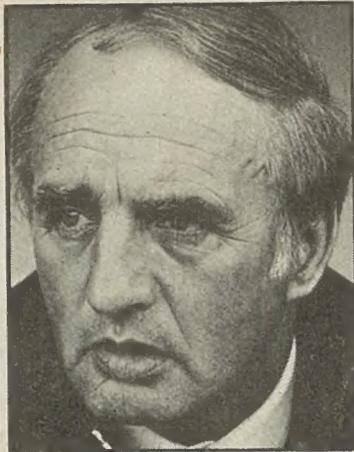
TRUE OR FALSE? 1. True. 2. True. 3. False. — they only qualified for 1974. 4. True. 5. True. 6. True. 7. True. 8. True. 9. True. 10. True. 11. True. 12. True. 13. True. 14. True. 15. True. 16. True. 17. True. 18. True. 19. True. 20. True. 21. True. 22. True. 23. True. 24. True. 25. True. 26. True. 27. True. 28. True. 29. True. 30. True. 31. True. 32. True. 33. True. 34. True. 35. True. 36. True. 37. True. 38. True. 39. True. 40. True. 41. True. 42. True. 43. True. 44. True. 45. True. 46. True. 47. True. 48. True. 49. True. 50. True. 51. True. 52. True. 53. True. 54. True. 55. True. 56. True. 57. True. 58. True. 59. True. 60. True. 61. True. 62. True. 63. True. 64. True. 65. True. 66. True. 67. True. 68. True. 69. True. 70. True. 71. True. 72. True. 73. True. 74. True. 75. True. 76. True. 77. True. 78. True. 79. True. 80. True. 81. True. 82. True. 83. True. 84. True. 85. True. 86. True. 87. True. 88. True. 89. True. 90. True. 91. True. 92. True. 93. True. 94. True. 95. True. 96. 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WHEN Newcastle United sacked Bill McGarry on August 29 he spotlighted the pressure there is on the manager at St James' Park with the remark: "I've had to meet with the Press here every day of the week — and I don't think that happens at any other club in the country."

McGarry, whose spell as boss at Gallowgate lasted almost three years, found that the constant attention given by the local and national Press to the affairs of United was similar to the fevered interest shown by the fans in their team.

On Tyneside, everything comes second to the fortunes of The Magpies.

It has always been like this in the



North-East — and nobody has been more aware of it than Newcastle's new manager Arthur Cox, who has put his head on the block by leaving the relative safety of Chesterfield to take over at St. James' park.

At the beginning of this season attendances slumped drastically, with Newcastle playing in front of their lowest-ever Cup-tie gate when they entertained Bury in the League Cup and drew only 8,666. Two days later, United and McGarry parted company.

As usual at Newcastle, it was a dramatic dismissal, with the new season barely under way. But McGarry said: "I would have been stupid not to have known it was coming. The signs were there."

With the team, the indication that all was not well became evident in the second half of last season, when United had dropped in the League following their top of the table position at Christmas.

Earlier, when McGarry became Newcastle boss in November, 1977, the side was bottom of the First Division.

Improvement

Within three months, Paul Cannell, "Rocky" Hudson, Alan Gowling, Tommy Craig and Denis Martin had left the club, but there was no sign of real improvement, not enough to save United from relegation.

Indeed, The Magpies were 11 points adrift of a safe spot, finishing second bottom with only 22 points. Then, in 1979 in Division Two, they were eighth in the table before they began what appeared to be a successful bid to return to the First Division in 1979-80, which eventually ended in dismal failure.

Proof of the fans' disillusionment and lack of belief in their side has been apparent this season, especially after Newcastle were bottom of the League in the week that McGarry's reign ended.

Significant, too, has been the fact that only Steve Hardwick who first wore the black-and-white shirt for McGarry at Gallowgate is still with the club.

One of the reasons for McGarry's

Why McGarry failed at Newcastle



Newcastle boss Arthur Cox

failure could be attributed to his lack of rapport with his players.

He antagonised most of them and they were finding it hard to play for him — yet he was 100 per cent professional, his greatest asset, and his tough exterior concealed a softer side of which most people were unaware.

McGarry had promised the supporters that he would try to buy big, but the much-needed cash injection failed to materialise. And in spite of his prediction when he accepted the job that Newcastle would attract the necessary talent, many transfer-listed top players refused a move to Tyneside.

The only big name that the former Wolves boss secured for United was Peter Withe, a record buy for the club at £250,000. But the big centre-forward left for Aston Villa in the close season.

In contrast, Joe Harvey, McGarry's temporary replacement before Cox's appointment, is a man who in his time has brought several name players to Gallow-

gate.

Says Harvey: "Newcastle must get somebody who can draw the

crowds. Through the years, the fans have been used to having someone they can cheer, and there are so many of them just waiting for this place to take off again."

Harvey, Newcastle's Cup-fighting hero and skipper during their great days in the 1950's, was later successful in guiding United to promotion, to a Fairs Cup Final win in 1969, and to an F.A. Cup Final in 1974.

"The players have got to start using the ball properly again, not just kicking it around," says Harvey. "Confidence has got to be built up, then the club must move forward from there."

When Newcastle failed to move forward under Bill McGarry, it was inevitable that he would suffer the

NEXT WEEK...



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● Sheffield Wednesday — Club spotlight plus colour picture.

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THE BIG SHOT

Only 15 players in the 150 club

THEY are the elite, the men who have scored more than 150 goals in the Football League. And because goals are much harder to come by than they used to be, only 15 players began the season as members of the 150 club.

There are some famous names — eight of them are internationals — and some relatively unknown. There are those who score by stealth, like Martin Peters, and those who power them in like Bob Latchford. But they all share that uncanny knack of being able to be in the right place at the right time.

As Jimmy Greaves used to say: "You can't make a goalscorer. You've either got it or not." But the ability to keep a cool head in tight situations is an obvious necessity.

Pride of place goes to Ted MacDougall, now player-coach and Alan Ball's number two at Blackpool. In a career which has taken in Liverpool, where he didn't get a League game, the former Scotland striker ended last season on 256 scored for York, Bournemouth, Manchester United, West Ham, Norwich, Southampton and Bournemouth again.

MacDougall is followed by the amiable Bryan Robson, who scored the first 81 of his 228 goals for Newcastle before having two spells at both Sunderland and West Ham. Then, the only other player to break the 200 barrier, comes Dixie McNeil, now with Wrexham after service with Leicester, Exeter, Northampton, Lincoln, and Hereford.

After worrying defences for more than 15 years Dixie, who has

scored 213, says: "I'd like to reach the 250 mark before I retire, but it's a lot harder scoring in the Second Division than it is in the Third and Fourth."

Frank Worthington, who has known the feel of an England shirt,



Frank Worthington (far right) is still unlocking opposing defences in the First Division with Birmingham.



has given up milestones. Now at Birmingham after playing for Huddersfield, Leicester and Bolton, he says: "This is probably my last season in the First Division, so I'll be wanting to add to that total. Scoring is the hardest thing in the world, but fortunately I've been able to do it on a regular basis."

Worthington rates his former Bolton colleague Neil Whatmore as quite capable of reaching the 150 mark, alongside Alan Sunderland and Frank Stapleton, the Arsenal pair.

"But they'll have to make the most of their chances," he says. "Defences are getting more organised all the time."

Another tip for the top is Walsall winger Don Penn, still only 20 and scorer of 26 League goals in his first season.

"A great prospect," is McNeil's rating, and Walsall player-manager Alan Buckley, who hit the 150 mark at the end of last season after a career that included a spell at Birmingham, agrees, adding, like Worthington: "It'll be hard. Defenders don't take any risks."

Ted MacDougall (left), king of the present-day goalscorers, who is now player-coach at Blackpool.

The elite

Ted MacDougall	Blackpool	256
Bryan Robson	Sunderland	228
Dixie McNeil	Wrexham	213
Mike Channon	Southampton	188
Kevin Randall	York	180
Bob Hatton	Sheffield Utd	174
Martin Peters	Sheffield Utd	169
Bob Latchford	Everton	168
Bruce Bannister	Hull	168
John Toshack	Swansea	167
Alan Ball	Blackpool	161
Frank Worthington	Birmingham	155
Phil Boyer	Southampton	154
Ken Beamish	Tranmere	153
Alan Buckley	Walsall	150

(Figures as at the start of this season)

Dundee United chase the good life

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

It took Dundee United 69 years to win their first major trophy when they lifted the League Cup in a dramatic 3-0 Final replay victory over favourites Aberdeen at Dens Park last season.

Ironically, they broke their silverware hoodoo at the home of their great rivals Dundee after a goalless first game at Hampden. Manager Jim McLean, a football perfectionist, didn't allow the triumph to alter his views on his team.

"We can get better," he said minutes after the history-making victory. "Once Eamonn Bannon and Willie Pettigrew settle into the side we will make improvements."

And McLean is deadly serious. The euphoria of the evening could not dim his outlook or cloud his judgment. United are striving to reach new heights with every game and McLean will not be satisfied until his talented team are crowned Champions of Scotland.

"That's got to be our aim," says Pettigrew, who scored more than 20 goals for the club last season after his bargain £100,000 move from Motherwell. But he was so unlucky at the start of the present

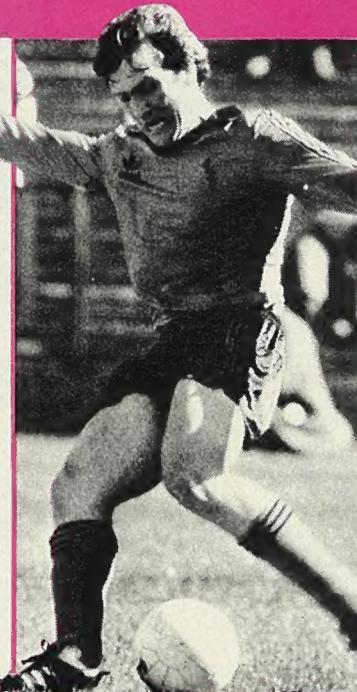
season when he damaged his collarbone in a friendly against West Ham.

"I want to be involved in the action," says Pettigrew, scorer of two goals in that League Cup win over the Dons. "I want to get the goals that could take us to the Premier Division title. Mr McLean bought me to score on a regular basis and that's what I intend to do."

United were happy to see Aberdeen win the Championship last season, as one player points out: "It proved that the Old Firm of Celtic and Rangers didn't have a God-given right to the flag. Their domination has been broken for the first time in 15 years and that can't be a bad thing for other ambitious clubs like ourselves."

The Tannadice men have had an unsettled start to this campaign and McLean has had every right to be more than a little unhappy with his side. Players have gone off the boil for no apparent reason and the results have mirrored this.

They even went down 2-1 in the first-leg of the recent League Cup tie against Ally MacLeod's First



Eamonn Bannon, settling in at Tannadice after an unhappy spell at Chelsea.

Division side Motherwell at Fir Park. A scoreline like that is not designed to keep a frown away from McLean's face.

However, United possess far too many good players for such reversal to become a habit this season. David Narey, Paul Hegarty, Graeme Payne, Paul Sturrock, Eamonn Bannon and, of course, Pettigrew, have all been capped at various levels and their experience will help keep United on the right rails.

United are gearing themselves for the 80's and have carried out over £100,000 worth of improvements at Tannadice. McLean looks at the new ground facilities and says: "I call them Ray Stewart's left leg."

Versatile

The cash United have spent on their ground comes from the £400,000 transfer of versatile Stewart to West Ham last season. That quip is a rare piece of humour from an otherwise very serious manager.

McLean, a fierce opponent of the ten-team Premier Division which he reckons is too small, is the only survivor of the bosses who kicked off the new set-up six seasons ago. But, ever the realist, he says: "The one thing certain about being a team boss is that one day you will get the sack!"

That's one theory McLean might just disprove if his achievements continue along the same lines . . .



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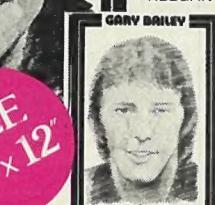
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225 SPORT RD
BACK ROW (left to right): Andy Graham, Iain Phillip, Joe Ward, Hamish McAlpine, David Narey, Walter Smith, John Gardner
MIDDLE ROW: Andy Dickson (physio), Derek Stark, Dave Dodds, Ralph Milne, Billy Kirkwood, Eamonn Bannon, Frank Kopel, Gerry Leslie, Iain Campbell (trainer)
FRONT ROW: Colin Campbell, Graham Payne, Steve Cochrane, Paul Hegarty, Willie Pettigrew, John Holt, Paul Sturrock

